



BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Bedford

FOR THE YEAR

1938.

BY

G. K. BOWES, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Together with the Report of
F. C. HAYNES, Cert.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

For the Year 1938.

8151



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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

Chairman—Alderman M. J. STAPLETON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor A. MITCHELL-INNES.

Councillor A. BRAGGINS, J.P. (Mayor).

Councillor J. A. CANVIN.

Councillor Miss V. I. CHOMLEY, M.A.

Councillor F. P. H. GOWER.

Councillor C. T. HART.

Councillor Mrs. E. L. MARTIN, J.P.

Councillor W. P. MELDRUM, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.T.M.

MEMBERS OF THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Councillor Mrs. E. L. MARTIN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor Miss V. I. CHOMLEY, M.A.

Councillor A. BRAGGINS, J.P. (Mayor).

Councillor L. FRANCIS.

Councillor W. M. KEMPSTER, J.P.

Councillor W. P. MELDRUM, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.T.M.

Co-opted Members—

Mrs. W. M. MACASKIE. Mrs. J. M. MYERS-DAWES. Mrs. C. M. NASH.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

(a) MEDICAL.

Medical Officer of Health.

G. K. BOWES, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

DORA MASON, M.A., M.B., B.S.

(b) DENTAL.

Dental Surgeon for Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

V. A. VASEY, L.D.S.

(c) SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

F. C. HAYNES, Cert.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector and Food Inspector.

J. F. WILKINSON, M.R.San.I., Cert. Meat Inspection R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors.

J. N. MARTIN, A.R.San.I., Cert. Meat Inspection R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

C. R. STARMER, A.R.San.I., Cert. Meat Inspection R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(d) HEALTH VISITORS.

Senior Health Visitor and School Nurse.

Miss B. M. RODGERS, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.San.I.

Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Miss A. DICKSON, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.San.I.

Miss F. D. COOPER, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.San.I.

Miss E. E. HILL, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.San.I.

Miss D. P. GUARIENTO, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.San.I.

(e) MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES.

Senior Midwife.

Miss A. O'KEEFFE, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Midwives.

Miss L. M. JONES, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Mrs. A. L. TURNER, S.C.M.

Mrs. E. YARDE, S.C.M.

(f) CLERICAL AND OTHER STAFF.

Chief Clerk.

F. J. DIX.

Clerks.

E. J. CONSTABLE.

R. J. CREWDSON.

F. E. CASEMORE.

Miss V. WADEY.

Miss B. M. IBBOTT.

(Resigned April, 1939)

Miss J. WATERHOUSE.

(Appointed April, 1939)

Laboratory Assistant.

R. T. PRUDDEN.

Disinfectors and Drain Testers.

G. V. BURRIDGE.

W. E. PAULGER.

PUBLIC ANALYST.

J. KEAR COLWELL, F.I.C.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BEDFORD.

1st June, 1939.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Bedford.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1938.

The year under review generally was healthy, and was free from any serious prevalence of epidemic disease. The figures for diphtheria and scarlet fever, namely 35 and 36 respectively, were considerably less than in the previous year.

The death rate for the year was 12.1. Such slight increases as that which this figure shows over that of the previous year may now be attributed in a general way to the gradual ageing of the population, which Bedford, in common with the remainder of the country, shows as the result of recent changes in the birth and death rates. At the same time in this particular instance it may be due to an under-estimate of the population by the Registrar-General, causing the rate to appear higher than it should in truth be.

On the administrative side additional work was caused by the Public Health Act 1936, which came into force at the end of the previous year, and the Factories Act 1937, which came into force in the year under review. Generally the work necessary to ensure compliance with this new legislation proceeded smoothly.

In conclusion, I have to express my thanks for the valuable assistance I have received during the year from the Town Clerk, the Borough Surveyor, and the Housing Manager, as also for the loyal support of the Staff of the Public Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. K. BOWES,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF BEDFORD

Annual Report

OF

Medical Officer of Health

For 1938.

Arrangement of Report.

In the arrangement of this Report the Circular of the Ministry of Health relating to Annual Reports for 1938 has been, so far as possible, followed. Dr. Dora Mason, the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, is responsible for that part of the Report dealing with Midwifery and Maternity and Child Welfare in Section II.

The Report of Mr. F. C. Haynes, Senior Sanitary Inspector, will be found at the end of the volume. In addition to this Report under his own name, he is also responsible for large parts of the Report of the Medical Officer of Health, especially the Sections III. and IV. relating to sanitary circumstances and Housing. Mr. J. F. Wilkinson is mainly responsible for that part of the Report relating to Food and Drugs under Section V., while both he and Messrs. J. N. Martin and C. R. Starmer are mainly responsible for those parts under the same Section relating to Inspection of Meat and other foods.

I. Statistics and Social Conditions.

1.—Vital Statistics and General Observations.

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	4,972 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1938						45,760
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to						
Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	13,139
Rateable Value on December 31st, 1938	...	...	...	...	...	£370,669
Sum produced by a penny rate, half year ended 30th						
September, 1938, estimated	...	...	...	...	...	£1,468

There has been no substantial change in the social conditions of the town since the date of my last Report. Immigration continues, largely from areas where there is more unemployment, and is indicated not only by the increase in the Registrar-General's estimate of the population, but also by the increase in the number of children on the school register, and the large amount of building which is taking place in the outlying parts of the town.

There has been some increase in the amount of unemployment as indicated by the figures supplied by the Manager of the Employment Exchange, which relate to an area within two to four miles of Bedford.

		<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
January, 1939	...	923	267	43	53	1286
January, 1938	...	535	224	20	35	814

The following table gives extracts from the vital statistics of the year as furnished by the Registrar-General.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year 1938.

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
Live Births—					
Legitimate	...	623	319	304	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.4
Illegitimate	...	35	17	18	
Still Births	...	16	7	9	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 23.7
Deaths	...	555	266	289	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.1

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

						Rate per 1000 total (live and still)	
						Deaths.	Births.
No. 29	Puerperal	Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
No. 30	Other	Puerperal	causes	...	...	—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	70
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	71
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	57
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	78
„ Measles (all ages)	...	.....	...	...	...	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	2

2.—Population.

The population as estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-1938 was 45,760, an increase of 510 over the preceding year.

Mr. Craddock, the Rating and Valuation Officer, has kindly allocated the total population as estimated by the Registrar-General to the various wards, though this estimate does not in fact agree with that formed on independent grounds by Mr. Craddock. The ward figures as so allocated are used for the calculation of rates for births and deaths and diseases.

Name of Ward.								Allocation of population on basis of Registrar- General's estimate for June, 1938.
Castle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,387
Cauldwell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,437
de Parys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,284
Harpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,865
Kingsbrook	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,709
Newnham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,246
Queens Park	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,832
Total								45,760

I am indebted to Mr. C. E. Craddock, the Rating and Valuation Officer, for the following statement relating to the estimated number of houses and the population based thereon for December 31st, 1938.

Mr. Craddock also gives his own estimates of the ward populations.

“ Old Borough.

Estimated number of houses 31st December, 1937	...	11,252
Built during 1938	... .. 167	
Pulled down during 1938	... .. 33	
	—	134
Estimated number of houses 31st December, 1938	...	11,386
Empty houses 31st December, 1938	... .. 124	
Estimated number of occupied houses 31st December, 1938		11,262
The Population at 4 persons per house would be	...	45,048

Added Area.

Estimated number of houses 31st December, 1937	...	1,541
Built during 1938	... .. 356	
Pulled down during 1938	... .. 3	
	—	353
Estimated number of houses 31st December, 1938	...	1,894
Empty houses 31st December, 1938	... .. 17	
Estimated number of occupied houses 31st December, 1938		1,877

Worked out on the averages for the 1931 Census the population would be 6,986.

“ The Register of Electors for 1938 shows an increase of about 600 residents for the whole Borough when compared with the 1937 Register. In parts of the Old Borough, owing to demolition of houses, the number of Electors has slightly decreased, some parts have slightly gained, but by far the larger number of the increase is accounted for in the added areas.

“ In the old part of the Borough I believe the average of 4 persons per house is fully maintained, but as many overcrowding cases have been dealt with by the Corporation, and the new houses in the Eastern part of the Borough do not average 4 persons per house, an adjustment is necessary, and 400 would safely cover this point, reducing the 45,048 for the Old Borough to 44,648.

“ In the added areas the average number of persons per house is lower than at the time of the 1931 Census. I believe it to be about 3.2, and on this account the 6,986 has been reduced to 6,023.

SUMMARY.

Estimated population of the Old Borough	...	44,648
Estimated population of the Added Area	...	6,023
		<hr/>
Estimated population of the Whole Borough	...	50,671
		<hr/>

The above figures shown in Wards :—

Ward.	No. of houses.	No. of occupied houses.	Estimated population.
Kingsbrook	2077	2071	7429
Cauldwell	2102	2090	8235
Queens Park	1646	1636	6458
Castle	1795	1768	7072
Harpur	1661	1631	6495
de Parys	1866	1830	6958
Newnham	2133	2113	8024
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Borough	13280	13139	50671 "
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Mr. Craddock adds :—

“ Quite a large proportion of the new houses are occupied by persons who have moved from the older houses, but it is really surprising to find how the said old houses have become re-occupied by people from away, and the large number of people who have moved into the Borough from the County and distant parts to become owner-occupiers of new houses.

“ I think that I am safe in saying that by far the greater portion of the newcomers are either newly married or do not total more than three in family.

“ You will notice that 487 houses were added to the Rate Book during the year, the estimated population has increased by 1,175; if the increase could be attributed to the new houses only, the average number of persons per house is 2.41.”

In addition to the fact that Mr. Craddock's estimate is considerably higher than that of the Registrar-General, there are other grounds for thinking that the latter estimate may be below the truth. The house-to-house survey carried out in January and February last in connection with the Government Evacuation Scheme showed a population of persons ordinarily resident of 47,175, excluding the population of houses let-in-lodgings, Government establishments, institutions, school and college boarding houses, and the few large hotels and boarding houses. On the other hand, it is at least possible

that the figure attained in the house-to-house census may be too high, since there would no doubt be an inevitable tendency for householders, in order to avoid an excessive number of persons being billeted upon them, if not wilfully to overstate the number of persons actually resident, at least to include persons absent at the time who might perhaps in some way be regarded by the householders, though not by the Registrar-General, as ordinary residents. Again, the birth rate for the year is 14.4 per thousand, an increase of 1.0 over the previous year, which again is 1.2 over 1936. It is difficult to attribute the whole of this increase to a real increase in fertility of the normal inhabitants or to the immigration of families of greater fertility, and it seems at least possible that some part of the increase may be due to an under-estimate of the population, causing the rate as calculated to be too high.

The natural increase of the population, or the excess of births over deaths, was 2.3 per thousand.

3.—Birth Rate.

The birth rate for the year under review was 14.4 per thousand, which may be compared with the figure of 13.4 for the preceding year. The corresponding figures for England and Wales were 15.1 and 14.9 respectively.

Some observations which may indicate that the increase in the birth rate indicated by the figures is apparent rather than real have been made under the heading of population.

The rates for the separate wards are as follows. The numbers of births are obtained from the notified births, after making correction for residence, and information received from the local registrar and the Registrar-General. (All births taking place in the Bedford and County Girls' Home are excluded.)

Ward.				Number of Live Births.	Still Births.	Live Births Rates.	
Castle	...	...	...	90	2	...	14.1
Cauldwell	...	...	...	130	4	...	17.5
de Parys	...	...	...	67	—	...	10.7
Harpur	...	...	...	70	3	...	11.9
Kingsbrook	...	...	...	181	1	...	27.0
Newnham	...	...	...	64	3	...	8.8
Queens Park	...	...	...	63	1	...	10.8
Totals				665*	14*	...	14.4

* These figures, compiled from local returns, show a slight discrepancy from the figures furnished by the Registrar-General, the cause of which is unexplained, but which is too small for significance.

The number of births which occurred at the Bedford and County Girls' Home was 38, namely 36 live and 2 still births.

4.—Death Rate.

The death rate for the year under review was 12.1 per thousand, which may be compared with the figure of 11.8 for 1937. The corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1938 and 1937 are 11.6 and 12.4 respectively. In order to make allowance for the different age and sex constitutions in comparing the death rate of Bedford with that of the country as a whole, use is made of the Registrar-General's "comparability factor," as described in a previous year's report. By multiplying by this factor, 0.88 for Bedford, an "adjusted" death rate of 10.6 is obtained. After thus making allowance for the greater average age of the inhabitants it will be seen that the death rate for Bedford is, as usual, considerably below that of the country as a whole and indicates the greater healthiness of this town.

The deaths and rates for the four successive quarters of the year (that is, successive periods of thirteen, or exceptionally, fourteen weeks, corresponding as nearly as possible to the calendar year) are as follows :—

			Number of Deaths	Quarterly Death Rate
1st Quarter	...	...	165	14.4
2nd Quarter	...	...	128	11.2
3rd Quarter	...	...	129	11.3
4th Quarter	...	...	127	11.1

The following table shows the death rates for the various wards in the Borough :—

Ward			Number of Deaths (year ending Dec. 31st, 1938.)	Rate per thousand population
Castle	...	...	95	14.9
Cauldwell	...	...	78	10.5
de Parys	...	...	71	11.3
Harpur	...	...	84	14.3
Kingsbrook	...	...	73	10.9
Newnham	...	...	82	11.3
Queens Park	...	...	66	11.3
Total			549*	12.0

* This figure compiled from local returns shows a slight discrepancy from the figures furnished by the Registrar-General, the cause of which is unexplained, but which is too small for significance.

5.—Causes of Death : Statistics.

The table immediately following, supplied by the Registrar-General, gives the causes of deaths of residents in the Borough during the year 1938, and the next table gives for comparison the birth rate, general death rate, and death rate for certain specified causes for the country as a whole, and for certain groups of the population, together with figures for notification of infectious diseases. In this table the Borough rates have been inserted for comparison.

Influenza caused 8 deaths only, in comparison with 34 in 1937. Diphtheria caused 2 deaths, a number identical with that of the previous year; 4 deaths were due to whooping cough. Measles and scarlet fever caused no deaths. Twenty-three deaths were due to respiratory and 5 to non-respiratory tuberculosis. Seventy-eight deaths were caused by cancer. Five deaths were due to suicide. The maternal mortality was nil.

Ten deaths of Borough residents occurred as the result of road accidents, 8 of which occurred within the Borough boundary. In one of these 8 cases a pedal cycle was involved, the remainder were due to motor cars; while the 2 accidents occurring outside the Borough were also due to motors. Two non-residents were involved in fatal street accidents in the Borough.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>						<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
All Causes						266	289
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2	2
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1	1
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	5	3
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	1
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	13	10
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	3
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes, etc.	...	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer	...	...	...	...	36	42
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	3	3
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	9	14
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	51	76
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	2
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	45	40
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	8
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	13	13
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	3	2
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	5	—
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	2
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	2	1
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	2	—
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	1	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	2
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	5	7
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	...	15	11
32.	Senility	...	...	...	...	1	5
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	1
34.	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	15	15
35.	Other defined causes	...	...	...	...	21	23
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	2	2
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)							
	Smallpox	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	1
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Total						22	24
						21	23
						1	1
Live Births { Total						336	322
						319	304
						17	18
Stillbirths { Total						7	9
						6	8
						1	1
Population (estimated mid-1938)						45,760	

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938. { England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns, 148 Smaller Towns, together with Bedford rates.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	Bedford Borough	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administra- tive County
Rates per 1,000 Population					
BIRTHS :					
Live	14.4	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4
Still	0.35	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48
DEATHS :					
All Causes	12.1	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles	—	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06
Scarlet Fever	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.09	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.04	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05
Influenza	0.17	0.11	0.07	0.06	0.05
NOTIFICATIONS :					
Smallpox	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	0.79	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05
Diphtheria	0.76	1.58	1.95	1.53	1.90
Enteric Fever	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas	0.20	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46
Pneumonia	1.22	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under 1 year of age	70	53	57	51	57
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	3.0	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1
MATERNAL MORTALITY :					
Puerperal Sepsis	—	0.89	} Not available.		
Others	—	2.19			
Total	—	3.08			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)					
MATERNAL MORTALITY :					
Puerperal Sepsis	—	0.86	} Not available.		
Others	—	2.11			
Total	—	2.97			
NOTIFICATIONS :					
Puerperal Fever } Puerperal Pyrexia }	22.26	14.42	18.08	12.51	{ 3.53 15.46

6.—Infant Mortality.

The following table shows Infant Mortality from stated causes on the basis of the Registrar-General's classification in weeks and months under one year of age.

Cause	Weeks.				Total under one month	Months.				Total under one year.
	0—	1—	2—	3—		1—	3—	6—	9—	
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	..	1	3
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Tuberculous Peritonitis ...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	4
Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Pyelitis ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Premature Birth ...	9	1	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	10
Congenital Malformation of Heart ...	5	3	...	...	8	1	...	...	...	9
Other Congenital Malfor- mation ...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	3
Melæna Neonatorum ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Suffocation ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Marasmus ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Convulsions ...	1	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Totals ...	18	5	1	...	24	11	5	2	4	46

Of the total 46, 22 were males and 24 females. The total number of deaths under one year corresponds to an infant mortality rate of 70 per thousand live births, which may be compared with 53, the figure for England and Wales. One may note that of the total number 18 took place in the first week of life, 24 in the first month, and 22 in the remaining eleven months of the year. Ten deaths were attributed to premature birth, and a further fifteen to other diseases of early infancy: congenital malformations (12), melaena neonatorum (1) and atelectasis (2).

The marked increase in the number of deaths due to congenital malformations is to be noted.

II. General Provision of Health Services
in the Area.

1.—Laboratory Facilities.

There have been no changes in the arrangements for the examination of swabs, sputa and other materials.

The following tables show the work carried out in the municipal laboratory during the year.

Examination of Pathological Material.

Specimens Examined.	Totals.	Positive.	Negative.	Doubtful— referred for further examination
Diphtheria—Routine Examinations.				
Local Practitioners	211	24	182	5
Isolation Hospital, Oakley ...	383	82	301	—
Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer	68	3	65	—
Tuberculosis (Sputums)	22	1	21	—
Ringworm	1	1	—	—
Other bacteriological examinations	—	—	—	—
Totals	685	111	569	5

Examination of Milk Samples by Gerber Tests.

Total.	Up to Standard.	Below Standard.
375	343	32

Diphtheria swabs from the Oakley Isolation Hospital are examined in the Borough Laboratory. On account of the diminished prevalence of diphtheria the number of swabs examined was much below those of the two preceding years, namely 1,497 in 1937 and 1,953 in 1936.

Specimens which cannot be examined adequately in the Laboratory are sent to the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine. The following specimens were examined during 1938.

						Total	Positive	Negative
Enteric Fever :								
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Blood	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Diphtheria :								
Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	5
Haemolytic Streptococci :								
Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever :								
*Fluid	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
Dysentery :								
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1

* Examined on behalf of the Oakley Isolation Hospital.

In addition the following specimens were sent to the Pathological Laboratory, Ministry of Health, for special investigation.

						Total	Positive	Negative
Dysentery :								
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	17	4	13
Food Poisoning :								
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	7	—	7
Chocolate Dates	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1

2.—Ambulance Facilities.

No change took place in the ambulance arrangements for the Borough, and these arrangements may be said to be adequate.

3.—Nursing in the Home.

No change took place in the arrangements in the area for general nursing or for the nursing of infectious diseases.

4.—Clinics and Treatment Centres.

During the year a reorganisation of the School Medical Service took place, and more extended use was made of the premises at 29, Barford Avenue for purposes of a School Medical Inspection and Treatment Clinic. More detailed reference to these changes may be found in the Report of the School Medical Officer for 1938.

5.—Hospitals.

No change took place in the hospital arrangements of the Borough,

6. Institutional Treatment for Mothers and Children.

There have been no changes in arrangements under this heading.

REPORT BY DORA MASON, M.A., M.B., B.S.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer in charge of Centres.

7.—Midwifery and Maternity Services.

(a) Midwifery Acts, 1902-1936.

Municipal Midwives.—A detailed account of this service, instituted on July 1st, 1937, in accordance with the provisions of the Midwives Act, 1936, was given on page 25 of the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for last year. During the year under review, in addition to the four permanent municipal midwives, it was found necessary to engage a temporary relief midwife for the holiday months of July to September inclusive, and also for the months of April and May when bookings were heavy. In June and September other relief midwives were employed for short periods of exceptional stress.

The following table shows the work carried out by the municipal midwives during the first complete year of their service. For purposes of comparison figures for the last six months of the preceding year are given in brackets.

	As Midwife.	As Maternity Nurse.	Total.
Confinements attended (1)	281(127)	63(14)	344(141)
Cases booked and supervised in the ante-natal period but confined in hospital	12(7)	—(—)	12(7)
Other cases attended before or after confinement only	6(17)	—(—)	6(17)
Miscarriages attended	—(—)	5(2)	5(2)
Auxiliary ante-natal clinics held (2) ...	—(—)	—(—)	37(5)
Attendances	—(—)	—(—)	185(23)

Notes:—

(1) Including 1 at the Bedford and County Girls' Home.

(2) At 3, Brereton Road, chiefly for mothers entering the Public Assistance Institution for confinement, and attending the ordinary ante-natal clinic for medical supervision.

The sum of £665 3s. 0d. was received from patients attended by municipal midwives during the year.

Since it appeared to your Committee that a service of midwives adequate to meet the needs of maternity nursing as well as of midwifery proper had now been established in the Borough, an application was made to the Minister of Health for the making of an Order in accordance with the provisions of the Midwives Act, 1936, in effect forbidding untrained women to act as maternity nurses within the

area of your Authority. Such an Order was duly made and came into effect on April 1st of the current year.

Other Midwives.—One midwife formerly practising partly in the Borough surrendered her certificate on September 30th and has received compensation in accordance with the provisions of the Midwives Act, 1936. Another midwife who notified her intention to practise on June 1st was suspended indefinitely from practice on June 14th as being liable to be a source of infection, a matter to which further reference is made on page 28. At the end of the year under review, apart from five midwives in private nursing homes, there were no private midwives practising as such within the Borough.

During the year 38 midwives sent in notifications of their intention to practise. The table given below shows the number of cases attended by midwives practising in the Borough.

Midwives—Cases Attended.

	No.	As Midwife.	As Maternity Nurse.	Total.
* Municipal Midwives	8	281	63	344
† Midwives in private practice ...	6	38	54	92
§ Midwives attached to the Bedford District Nursing Association ...	5	15	42	57
*Midwives attached to the Bedford County Hospital	8	127	45	172
*Midwives attached to Public Assistance Institution	10	139	15	154
*Midwife attached to the Bedford and County Girls' Home ...	1	37	—	37
	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	38	637	219	856
	—	—	—	—

Notes.—

* Including those who have taken temporary duty only.

† Including one who surrendered her certificate on September 30th, and 5 in private nursing homes.

§ Including the Superintendent and one midwife engaged in medical nursing, who undertake emergency or relief duty only.

The following table shows the number of notices received from municipal midwives, from other midwives in domiciliary practice, including those in private nursing homes, and from midwives in institutional practice, respectively. Midwives acting as maternity nurses are responsible for sending only those notices marked with an asterisk.

Midwives—Notices Received.

	Midwives in Domiciliary Practice.				Midwives in Institutions.		Totals.	
	Municipal Midwives		Others					
	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937
Sending for medical help ...	161	78	21	72	99	122	281	272
Deaths of (1) Mothers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Children ...	3	1	1	2	11	12	15	15
Stillbirths ...	3	2	1	7	13	9	17	18
*Laying out the dead ...	5	2	3	—	1	—	9	2
*Liability to be a source of infection ...	11	8	6	7	2	6	19	21
Artificial Feeding ...	20	4	3	8	42	44	65	56
	203	95	35	96	168	193	406	384

The conditions for which medical help has been sought are summarised in the following table :—

Midwives—Medical Help.

MOTHER.

				Midwives in Domiciliary Practice.	Midwives in Institutions.
Abortion; threatened or inevitable ...	...	...	...	2	—
Adherent or retained placenta ...	...	...	...	1	2
Albuminuria and/or other symptoms of toxæmia	...	...	...	17	8
Ante-partum hæmorrhage ...	...	...	...	5	4
Malpresentation ...	...	...	...	1	3
Post-partum hæmorrhage ...	...	...	...	3	3
Prolapse of cord ...	...	...	...	1	—
Prolonged labour ...	...	...	...	13	14
Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	13	2
Tears of perineum, etc. ...	...	...	...	62	53
Other conditions ...	...	...	...	9	2
Totals ...				157	91

CHILD.

				Midwives in Domiciliary Practice.	Midwives in Institutions.
Birth injury ...	...	...	...	2	—
Congenital deformity ...	...	...	...	2	2
Discharging eyes ...	...	...	...	38	1
Unsatisfactory conditions (including blue and white asphyxia, prematurity, etc.) ...	...	...	...	13	10
Totals ...				127	91

In actual working the conditions under which medical help is sought cannot be quite the same in institutional as in domiciliary practice. The percentage of cases in which medical help was sought in domiciliary practice is set out below. Cases attended in four private maternity homes are included, as the conditions approach more nearly those of domiciliary than of institutional practice.

In Domiciliary Practice.
Medical Help Percentages.

	Cases attended.		Medical Help Sought.		Percentages.	
	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937
Mother	334	313	127	108	38.0	34.5
Child			55	16	16.5	5.1
Total: Mother and Child ...	334	313	182	124	54.5	39.6

The proportion of cases in which midwives send for medical help shows a constant tendency to rise, probably to be explained by an increasing readiness to send for the doctor in all cases in which the rules or the interests of the patient require it rather than by an increase in the number of difficult or abnormal cases.

Under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918, and Section 9 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1936, the Council is responsible for repayment of the fees of doctors called in by midwives, and recovering all or part of the cost from the patient, except in those cases where the doctor obtains his fee directly from the patient, or there is any other arrangement for payment of the doctor. The following table shows the number of cases in which fees were claimed and the amount of such fees, together with the amount recovered. Notices received from those midwives working in institutions where medical officers do not claim fees from the Town Council are not included in the table :—

Medical Help—Fees Paid and Recovered.

Number of cases in which midwives in domiciliary practice or in the Girls' Home sent for medical help	201
Number of cases in which doctors claimed fees from the Town Council	175
Amount of doctors' fees paid by the Town Council ...	£147 0 0
Amount recovered from patients	£89 14 6

The amount received from patients includes a sum of £43 14s. 6d. paid up to December 31st, 1938, in respect of patients in which medical help was sought during the year under review, and £46 0s. 0d. in respect of patients for whom medical help was sought during previous years.

SUSPENSION OF MIDWIVES.—Midwives were suspended from practice for short periods on account of liability to be a source of

infection in 6 cases relating to municipal and 8 cases relating to other midwives. In addition, one midwife who was employed as a relief municipal midwife for one week was suspended from practice on June 14th after contracting an acute infection of her throat, since repeated swabbings showed her to be a carrier of the *haemolytic streptococcus*, the organism held to be responsible for many cases of puerperal sepsis. This midwife had not been released from suspension by the end of the year under review.

SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.—The duties of Medical Supervisor of Midwives in relation both to municipal midwives and to other midwives practising in the area are carried out by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Dora Mason.

The following table shows the work carried out in connection with the supervision of midwives other than municipal midwives :

Supervision of Midwives.

Number of routine visits	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of special visits	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of interviews at office	...	...	...	...	...	5
						—
Total visits or interviews	...	...	...	...	...	24
						—

(b) Institutional Accommodation for Maternity Cases.

The Council accepts financial responsibility for maternity cases admitted to the County Hospital which are likely to prove difficult or complicated, and where patients are not in a position to make their own arrangements for payment, also for patients whose home conditions are in their view unsuitable for confinement.

The following table shows the number of patients so dealt with :

					1938	1937
Number of cases admitted to hospital during the						
year—(a) For obstetric reasons	...	...	...	...	21	23
(b) On account of unsuitable home						
conditions	...	...	...	...	1	—
Average duration of stay of each patient in						
hospital	...	...	...	...	15.54 days	16.1 days
Total sum paid by Borough in respect of such						
patients	...	...	...	...	£188 13 4	£180 8 10
Total sum recovered from patients	...	...	...	...	£87 5 6	£51 8 7

The sum given as having been received from patients includes £51 16s. 8d. received up to December 31st in respect of patients

admitted during the year under review and £55 8s. 10d. in respect of arrears of payment of patients admitted in previous years.

(c) Other Assisted Services for Prevention of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity.

The following schemes designed to diminish the occurrence of maternal mortality and morbidity have continued in operation :—

1. Payment of fees to midwives, other than municipal midwives, to act as maternity nurses in suitable cases.
2. Payment of fees of home helps during confinement.
3. Dental Treatment for expectant and nursing mothers.
4. Birth Control information where this is necessary on grounds of health.

The extent to which use was made of these services is shown under the following headings :—

Maternity Nurses.

No use has been made of this service. This is in accordance with expectation, since municipal midwives are now available to act as maternity nurses at a fee adapted to the circumstances of the patient.

Home Helps.

	1938	1937
Number of mothers for whom Home Helps were provided	5	2
Fees paid to Home Helps	£15 8 0	£7 0 0
Payments recovered from patients	£1 11 0	—

Any Home Help employed under the scheme has to be approved by your Medical Officer of Health, and four Home Helps were on the approved list during the course of the year. One of these was removed as unsatisfactory. It is generally necessary for the mother requiring the services of a Home Help under the scheme to submit a name for approval, and this appears to be a matter of considerable difficulty.

Dental Treatment of Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

The work done under this head is shown on page 47, in the Report of the Dental Officer. The reluctance of many expectant mothers to have their mouths put in order before confinement still prevents this service from achieving its full purpose.

Birth Control.

Arrangements are made for women needing information on birth control on the grounds of health to attend voluntary centres at Cambridge and Northampton.

	1938	1937
Number of patients attending voluntary centre at		
Cambridge	2	2
Number of attendances	2	2
Number of patients attending voluntary centre at		
Northampton	8	1
Number of attendances	19	2
Fees paid to centre at Cambridge	7/6	15/-
Fees paid to centre at Northampton	3/3/0	10/-
Travelling expenses paid	4/4/0	17/-

The following additional schemes framed in conformity with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health contained in Circular No. 1622 were brought into operation early in the year under review.

**(1) Scheme for Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Supervision
by Private Practitioners.**

This scheme applies to insured women and to any uninsured woman whose family income does not exceed £250 a year if she has engaged a midwife only for her confinement and does not attend an ante-natal clinic. Its aim is to secure that every woman has medical supervision during her pregnancy, and midwives are instructed to impress upon their patients the importance of such supervision and to inform them of the choice open to them of obtaining it either from their own doctor or at an ante-natal clinic. It is generally understood that the doctor undertaking supervision of any case under the scheme will be the doctor to be called upon if medical help is needed before during or after the confinement in accordance with the Midwives Act, 1918.

Medical examinations under the scheme are usually three in number, one as early as possible in pregnancy, one at or about the 36th week, and one at or about the 8th week after confinement. Additional ante-natal examinations are undertaken with the sanction of the Medical Officer of Health upon report by the doctor of their necessity. Confidential reports upon each examination are sent to the Medical Officer of Health and transmitted by him to the midwife concerned, or in the case of post-natal reports filed for possible future use.

Fees are paid to the practitioners taking part in the scheme in accordance with a scale approved by the Ministry of Health as follows :—

For Uninsured Patients—

For each examination, together with report ... 7/6

Insured Patients—

For each report 2/6

Twenty doctors have signified their willingness to participate in the scheme.

The following table shows the extent to which use was made of this service since its commencement on May 11th of the year under review :—

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Supervision by Private Practitioners.

No. of ante-natal examinations	50
No. of first examinations included in above	42
Insured patients, 13; Uninsured patients, 29; Total	42
No. of post-natal examinations	5
Amount of Doctors' fees paid by the Town Council	£17/15/0

(2) APPOINTMENT OF OBSTETRIC CONSULTANTS.—The Council have appointed the Honorary Medical Officers of the Maternity Department of the Bedford County Hospital, namely, A. J. Chillingworth, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and F. W. G. Nash, Esq., F.R.C.S., M.C.O.G., as Obstetric Consultants to assist medical practitioners who undertake domiciliary midwifery in cases of doubt or difficulty in the ante-natal period, at the time of confinement, and during the puerperium, including domiciliary cases of grave obstetric abnormality in which removal to hospital is contra-indicated (e.g., certain cases of shock, eclampsia, or haemorrhage).

The services of the consultants are available for cases where the doctor in attendance desires the opinion of a consultant in the home where he is attending the patient. No alteration has been made in the arrangements by which patients are admitted to the Maternity Wards of the Bedford County Hospital under the Council's Scheme, or in the existing facilities for consultation at the ante-natal and post-natal clinics of the Bedford County Hospital, which remain available for such patients as are not debarred by illness from attending. Consultations when desired by the doctor in attendance are free to patients whose family income is below £250 a year; the full fee is recoverable from those whose family income is over £450 a year, while between these two amounts the proportion of fee to be

recovered is one-twentieth of the excess of the yearly family income over £250, or the whole fee, whichever is the less.

The Council takes responsibility for the payment of fees as follows :—

For Consultation	...	...	...	3 guineas
„ Minor Operation	...	...	5	„
„ Major Operation	...	...	10	„

Since the appointment of the Consultants on April 20th, one consultation has been held which was followed by an operative procedure. The fee paid to the Consultant was £5 5s. 0d., of which 15s. was recovered from the patient.

(3) PROVISION OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT.—Arrangements have been made to place at the disposal of a doctor treating a case of grave obstetric emergency equipment for saline transfusion, and also the additional services if available of a Municipal Midwife trained in general nursing. Such equipment is kept in the care of the Senior Municipal Midwife for use in the area north of the River, and of the Municipal Midwife for the London Road District, for use in the area south of the River.

No use has yet been made of this service.

(d) Financial Scales for Recovery and Cost of Services.

No charge is made for ante-natal and post-natal supervision by Private Practitioners, and no charge has yet been fixed for the Emergency Equipment Service; otherwise as a general principle the patient is required to repay only such part of the cost of any service as she is in a position to do. Except in the case of the Obstetric Consultant Service, for which the charge is assessed on the basis set forth above, charges to be recovered are determined according to certain scales of income in relation to size of family adopted as base scales for each service. If the net family income does not exceed the base scale for any service, no charge, or in the case of Home Helps the minimum charge of 5s. weekly, is made for that service. Where the net family income exceeds the base scale the assessment is twice the excess, or in the case of Home Helps, twice the excess plus the minimum charge of 5s. The scales referred to are set out with explanatory notes below, together with the scale for free milk, to which the base scale for each of the other services bears a fixed relation.

**Table showing Base Scales (Family Income after deduction of rent, etc.)
for assessing charges for assisted services.**

No. in Family	Free Milk	Midwife (1) No charge.	Maternity Nurses (2) No charge.	Home Helps (3) 5s. weekly.	Maternity Wards (3) (4) (5) No charge.	Medical Help (Mid- wives' calls) (2) (6) No charge.	Provision of Dentures (2) No charge.
2	25/0	25/0	35/0	25/0	35/0	35/0	25/0
3	30/0	30/0	40/0	30/0	40/0	40/0	30/0
4	34/0	34/0	44/0	34/0	44/0	44/0	34/0
5	38/0	38/0	48/0	38/0	48/0	48/0	38/0
6	43/0	43/0	53/0	43/0	53/0	53/0	43/0
7	48/0	48/0	58/0	48/0	58/0	58/0	48/0
8	54/0	54/0	64/0	54/0	64/0	64/0	54/0
9	60/6	60/6	70/6	60/6	70/6	70/6	60/6
10	67/0	67/0	77/0	67/0	77/0	77/0	67/0
11	73/6	73/6	83/6	73/6	83/6	83/6	73/6
12	80/0	80/0	90/0	80/0	90/0	90/0	80/0
Maximum assessment		42/0	42/0	28/0 weekly	42/0 for confinement + 50s. weekly	variable	variable usually 40s.

NOTES.

(1) Full fee charged if maternity benefit is drawn.

(2) If both parents draw maternity benefit the assessment is increased by 40s. or such smaller sum as will bring the assessment to the maximum.

(3) If both parents draw maternity benefit the assessment is increased by 20s. weekly or such smaller sum as will bring the assessment to the maximum.

(4) 42s. charged for confinement if maternity benefit is drawn.

(5) The Council normally takes no responsibility, except in emergency, if the weekly income (irrespective of number of children) exceeds £5.

(6) No charge made for ophthalmia neonatorum.

(e) Maternal Mortality.

No death of a Borough resident was returned by the Registrar-General as due to puerperal causes. This is the second year in succession that no death has been so returned, but in 1937 one death of a Borough resident occurred in which childbirth was a contributory cause.

The table following gives the number of deaths of Borough residents from puerperal sepsis and from other puerperal causes and the number of live births for the ten years 1929—1938 and the number of total (i.e. live and still) births for the nine years 1930—1938, the number of total births for the year 1929 not being available, also the corresponding total maternal mortality rates per thousand births. The total maternal mortality rates for England and Wales for the ten years 1929—1938 are given for comparison. It will be observed that the total mortality rates for Bedford compare favourably with those of the country as a whole.

Maternal Mortality.

Year	Deaths.			Births.		Rate per thousand live births.		Rate per thousand total births.	
	Puerperal Sepsis	Other Causes	Total	Live	Total	Bedford	England & Wales	Bedford	England & Wales
1929	2	2	4	531	Not available	7.53	4.33	Not available	4.16
1930	—	3	3	541	564	5.55	4.40	5.32	4.22
1931	1	—	1	508	528	2.00	4.11	1.89	3.95
1932	—	3	3	503	527	5.96	4.21	5.69	4.04
1933	—	1	1	420	433	2.38	4.51	2.31	4.32
1934	2	—	2	539	551	3.71	4.60	3.63	4.41
1935	1	—	1	558	571	1.79	4.11	1.75	3.94
1936	—	3	3	544	566	5.51	3.81	5.30	3.65
1937	—	—	—	607	631	—	3.23	—	3.11
1938	—	—	—	658	674	—	3.08	—	2.97
Average	0.6 10 years	1.2 10 years	1.8 10 years	540 10 years	560 9 years	3.44 10 years	4.03 10 years	2.87 9 years	3.87 10 years

8.—Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

The table set out below shows the organisation of the work at the two Centres as from September 12th of the year under review, the date upon which the amalgamation of the Health Visiting and School Nursing Staffs referred to on page 45 came into effect.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Centre.	Child Welfare Clinics.	Ante-Natal & Post-Natal Clinics.	Ultra-Violet Light Clinics.	Minor Ailments Treatment Clinics.
Brereton Road	Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 2.30—4.30	Thursdays, 9.30—11.30 Wednesdays, 2.30	Mondays, Thursdays, 2.30	Daily, 9.0
Barford Avenue	Mondays, Thursdays, 2.30—4.30	Wednesdays, 2.30—4.30	Tuesdays, Fridays, 2.30	Daily, 9.0

Toddlers' Clinics.

Brereton Road.	First Monday in each month, 2.30—4.30 p.m.
Barford Avenue.	The Tuesday in the following week, 2.30—4.30 p.m.

The Medical Officer of the Centre attends all the Child Welfare sessions (including Toddlers' Clinics) except that held on Wednesday afternoon at Brereton Road, for which the Senior Health Visitor, Miss Rodgers, is responsible, and all ante-natal and post-natal sessions except the auxiliary clinic on Wednesday afternoon, for which the Senior Municipal Midwife is responsible.

The Health Visitors are responsible under the direction of the Medical Officer for the Ultra Violet Light and Minor Ailment Treatment Clinics.

Thanks are due to the many voluntary workers, without whose assistance it would be very difficult to carry on the work of the Centres, including members of the Women's Co-operative Guild, who supply tea to the mothers at a small cost.

Thanks are also due to the anonymous donor of a film screen for the Barford Avenue Centre, to Mr. Wignall, Head Master of the Harpur Central School, for the loan and transport of a projector and educational films on alternate Thursday evenings during term time, and also to senior boys of the same school for operating the projector. The films have been shown for the benefit of mothers who attend the Centre, and have been accompanied on some occasions by talks on dental and other subjects given by Mr. Vasey (who provided illustrative films) and others.

(a) Child Welfare Clinics.

PREMISES AND ATTENDANCES.

The following table shows the total attendances at the Clinics for 1938, the figures for the preceding year being given in brackets for comparison. These latter figures refer to attendances at Community Hall up to March 13th, when the Centre was transferred to 29, Barford Avenue.

	First Attendances.			Total Attendances including First Attendances.			Individual Children Attending. at end of year.		
	Children below 1 year	Children aged 1—5	Total first attendances	Children below 1 year	Children aged 1—5	Total attendances	Children below 1 year	Children aged 1—5	Total
3, Brereton Road ...	202(239)	39(38)	241(277)	3640(3887)	2981(3176)	6621(7063)	165(200)	384(381)	549(581)
Community Hall and 29, Barford Avenue	194(147)	71(51)	265(198)	3674(2704)	4724(4268)	8398(6972)	167(128)	412(331)	579(459)
Total	396(386)	110(89)	506(475)	7314(6591)	7705(7444)	15019(14035)	332(328)	796(712)	1128(1040)

(a) Child Welfare Clinics.

The attendances at both Centres have been satisfactory. It is to be noted that the increase in the number of individual children attending relates almost entirely to those over the age of one year.

Breast Feeding.

Every effort is made to encourage breast feeding and to help mothers to overcome the real difficulties sometimes encountered in its practice, and especially to continue breast feeding even if additional bottle feeding is required. Deficiencies of diet are met by the provision of free milk in necessitous cases, and also of iron, cod liver oil, etc.

The following table shows that a large proportion of infants were established on artificial feeding before they attended the Centres.

FEEDING OF BABIES UNDER SIX MONTHS ON THEIR FIRST ATTENDANCE.

	Breast.	Mixed.	Artificial.	Total.
3, Brereton Road.	114	28	45	187
29, Barford Ave.	114	13	44	171
Totals	228	41	89	358

Artificial Feeding.

Where breast feeding has partially or entirely failed fresh cow's milk—suitably modified—is, if possible, added or substituted. Otherwise recourse is had to one of the three forms of dried milk (one "full cream," two "humanised") that are kept in stock. One of these is almost invariably successful, but why one rather than another it is difficult to determine. If the baby is already satisfactorily established on cow's milk, fresh or dried, at its first attendance, the same diet is usually continued for a time, but when the age of six months is reached fresh cow's milk is thought to be desirable for practically all children.

Iron.

The addition to the diet (whether human or cow's milk) of iron and ammonium citrate in the case of premature, small or pale babies, twins, or babies of anaemic mothers, has continued to be attended with satisfactory results.

Diet for Older Children.

In accordance with the trend of modern opinion, mothers are encouraged to train their babies from the age of about six months to take a gradually increasing range of other articles of diet than milk, so that a normally healthy child should be able by the time it is a year old to digest most kinds of ordinary plain food. So far as it is possible to judge, fruit and vegetables appear to be generally given in sufficient quantity, while an excess of cereal food would appear to be common partly owing to economic reasons, but partly also to undue diffidence in introducing meat and fish into the diet. Sample diet sheets for children up to five years of age are distributed.

Dental Treatment.

While it is desired that all children with even slight dental defects should be sent to the dental clinic, this cannot always be achieved. Education in this matter, however, appears to be gaining ground. The Report of the Dental Officer is given on page 47.

(b) Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics.

Ante-natal sessions are held weekly at each Centre and arrangements are made for the required number of post-natal examinations in the course of each session. This is found to be more convenient than to hold separate post-natal sessions. Patients invited to attend for post-natal examination include those who have attended the ante-natal clinics and those who have been attended by Municipal Midwives for their confinement, provided they are not otherwise assured of the requisite medical supervision. The following table shows the number of ante-natal and post-natal attendances at each Centre. The figures for 1937 are given in brackets for comparison. In respect to the Barford Avenue Centre the figures for 1937 relate to the period from March 13th.

	ANTE-NATAL ATTENDANCES.			Post-Natal Attendances
	First Attendances	Re-atten- dances.	Total.	
3, Brereton Road ...	165(166)	461(630)	626(796)	41(37)
29, Barford Avenue	105(76)	390(218)	495(294)	42(19)
Totals	270(242)	851(848)	1121(1090)	83(56)

Among the re-attendances at 3, Brereton Road, are included 221 attendances at the auxiliary clinic referred to on page .

ANTE-NATAL ATTENDANCES. Certain details of attendance are given below.

	Brereton Road		Barford Avenue	
	1938	1937	1938	1937
Expecting their first babies	75	65	36	24
Attended during previous pregnancy	22	18	5	6
Sent by :—				
1. Midwives	72	59	46	30
2. Doctors	7	16	4	6
3. Public Assistance Authorities ...	6	18	1	—
4. Health Visitors	10	11	11	18
5. Came on own initiative or by advice of friends	70	62	43	22
Failed to attend as long as required	14	19	1	—
Found not to be pregnant	5	—	3	1

Analysis of Patients requiring special attention, 1938.

	Brereton Road.		Barford Ave.
(a) Correction of malpresentation	—
(b) Investigation for venereal disease	1
(c) Referred to private doctor	11
1. For symptoms of toxæmia	—
2. For urinary infection	—
3. For venereal disease	—
4. For gynaecological reasons	—
5. For other medical reasons	11
(d) Referred to X-ray department of the County Hospital for X-ray of uterus	5
(e) Referred to Out-patients department of the County Hospital for medical reasons	2
(f) Referred to the Ante-Natal Clinic of the County Hospital with a view to admission to the maternity wards :			
1. For medical and/or obstetric reasons			3
2. For unsuitable home conditions			2
(g) Referred to St. Peter's Hospital for medical and/or obstetric reasons	1
(h) Referred to Tuberculosis Dispensary	—
(i) Referred to Dental Clinic	42

In addition to special attention for more serious conditions, patients receive advice on the general hygiene of pregnancy (e.g. diet, rest, exercise, clothes) and also for digestive troubles, mild toxæmia and other minor ailments requiring only domestic measures for their relief. Free milk and Virol or Cod Liver Oil are given in necessitous cases as well as certain other preparations designed to make good deficiency of mineral in the diet.

Reports on 147 confinements of mothers attending at 3, Brereton Road, and 103 of mothers attending at 29, Barford Avenue, were received during the year from the midwives concerned. Of these, 126 cases were conducted without medical help and must therefore be presumed to have been normal; to these may be added as normal the 43 cases in which medical help was needed only for repair of perineum, making a total of 169. Further, in 23 cases discharge from the baby's eyes necessitated the summoning of medical help in accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives Board, though the discharge was usually slight and needed no special treatment.

The following table shows the reasons for which medical help was summoned by the midwives concerned in 124 cases, of which 63 had attended at 3, Brereton Road and 61 at 29, Barford Avenue.

Medical Help.

MOTHER.					Barford Avenue.	Brereton Road.
Abortion: threatened or inevitable	...	...	...	...	—	—
Adherent or retained placenta	...	...	...	...	1	—
Albuminuria and/or other symptoms of toxaemia	...	...	...	...	4	8
Ante-partum haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	2	—
Malpresentation	...	...	...	...	—	2
Post-partum haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	—	1
Prolapse of cord	...	...	...	...	1	—
Prolonged labour	...	...	...	...	5	6
Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	6	6
Tears of perineum, etc.	...	...	...	...	22	21
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total					42	45
					—	—
CHILD.						
Birth injury	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital deformity	...	...	...	...	1	—
Discharging eyes	...	...	...	...	12	11
Unsatisfactory conditions (including blue and white asphyxia, prematurity, etc.)	...	...	...	...	5	7
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	1	—
Total					19	18
					—	—

POST-NATAL ATTENDANCES. The following table shows the results of examinations carried out about two months after confinement.

No. of attendances	Brereton Rd.		Barford Av.	
	1938	1937	1938	1937
No. of attendances	26	37	45	19
(a) Referred to private doctor ...	6	6	8	1
(b) Referred to County Hospital ...	1	—	1	1
(c) Referred to Dental Clinic ...	1	6	7	3
(d) Referred to Birth Control Clinic	—	—	2	—
(e) Condition needing only advice, or supplement to diet	7	8	18	8
(f) Condition needing no special advice	11	21	9	6

The attendances have shown an increase over last year, and it would appear that these examinations serve a useful purpose.

Dental Treatment.

Expectant and nursing mothers with defective teeth are advised to attend the Dental Clinic. The Report of the Dental Officer is given on page .

(c) Ultra-Violet Light Clinics.

Sessions for this form of treatment are held twice weekly at each Centre. The following table shows the extent of the work undertaken :—

	No. of Sessions held.		No. of individual children attending.		No. of attendances.	
	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937
Brereton Road ...	99	84	33	35	468	354
Barford Avenue	100	86	46	51	589	545
Total	199	170	79	86	1057	899

The treatment has been found beneficial chiefly for cases of debility, catarrhal conditions and mild rickets, also for cases of impetigo and other infective conditions of the skin. The following tables show the results obtained in 79 courses of treatment :—

						Brereton Road	Barford Avenue
Improved ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	15	27
Benefit doubtful ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Failed to complete the course	...	...	...	...	...	10	18
Treatment discontinued owing to excessive crying, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
						—	—
						33	46
						—	—

(d) Minor Ailments Treatment Clinics.

Clinics were held twice weekly at each Centre up to September 12th and daily since that date. The table given below shows the extent of the work undertaken :—

	No. of Sessions held.		No. of individual children attending.		No. of attendances.	
	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937
Brereton Road ...	101	56	15	9	15	11
Barford Avenue	107	66	37	20	88	28
Total	208	122	52	29	103	39

Treatment has been given chiefly to cases of impetigo, eczema, and otitis media. Treatment should prove more effective now that it can be given daily.

(e) Toddlers' Clinics.

The object of Toddlers' Clinics is to keep under regular supervision children between the ages of one to five years, during which years there is a tendency for attendances at the ordinary sessions of the Child Welfare Centres to fall off.

Since it is impossible with the existing medical staff to carry out a complete scheme entailing medical examination of each child shortly after its first, second, third and fourth birthdays, your Committee at their meeting on March 1st adopted a modified scheme whereby each child should be invited for such examination on attaining its third birthday, and Clinics should be held for this purpose approximately once a month at each Centre for an experimental period of six months.

The Clinics have been held at 3, Brereton Road on the first Monday of each month except July and August, and at 29, Barford Avenue on the Tuesday of the succeeding week. On these days the Medical Officer of the Centre has attended the Toddlers' Clinic instead of the ordinary Child Welfare Clinic.

Each invitation sent by post was followed by a visit by the Health Visitor, who explained further the purpose of the Clinic, and if desired gave the mother a card showing the date and hour of the appointment.

Table A. given below summarises the attendances during the period named. Table B. indicates the proportion of children attending who had already attended the Infant Welfare Centre. It will be seen that a large proportion had already ceased to attend the Infant Welfare Centre.

In most cases mothers were given general advice concerning diet, sleep, etc. Table C. shows the number of children in whose cases special advice or treatment for some defect was recommended.

TABLE A.

Summary of Attendances from April to December, 1938.

	Brereton Road.	Barford Avenue.	Total.
Invitations to attend Toddlers' Clinic	157	134	291
<i>Appointments—</i>			
No. of appointments accepted ...	109	93	202
Not at home, but provisional appointments made by post ...	1	1	2
Message left giving appointment	2	—	2
Definite refusals	29	18	47
Child at school	2	—	2
Moved away, etc.	14	22	36
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	157	134	291
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
No. of individual children attending ...	76	55	131
No. of sessions	7	7	14
Average attendance per session ...	10.9	8	9.43

TABLE B.

Individual Children attending Infant Welfare Centres.

Attended Centre regularly during 1938	7	10	17
Attended Centre before 1938	40	19	59
Have never previously attended a Centre	29	26	55
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	76	55	131
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

TABLE C.

	Brereton Road.	Barford Avenue.	Total.
No. of children needing no special advice or treatment	29	18	47
No. of children needing special advice or observation only for one or more conditions	21	15	36
No. of children needing special treat- ment for one or more conditions	26	20	46
No. of children not examined owing to acute illness or excessive crying ...	—	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	76	55	131
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The defects most frequently present were those of teeth or throat. All children with carious teeth were advised to see their own dentist or to attend the dental clinic, and have been counted as needing treatment though treatment may not have been necessary in all cases. In some cases symptoms referable to the nose or throat may have been transitory or were already receiving medical attention. Other defects noted were almost all of minor degree.

The proportion of attendances to the number of invitations accepted—131 out of 202—i.e. 64% was disappointing, but in view of the fact that of the 131 attending 46 or 35.1% needed treatment and 36 or 27.5% special advice or observation, your Committee have directed that the present scheme should be continued for a further experimental period of six months.

(f) Distribution of Milk and Other Foods.

Dried milk and Virol are sold at cost price to parents attending the Centres. It is a condition of sale that the child for whom the milk is obtained should attend the Centres regularly. Fresh or dried milk and Virol are given free to those children whose parents are unable to afford it, when it is necessary on the grounds of health.

Since the object of this service is preventive rather than curative it is not felt necessary to await the appearance of actual signs of malnutrition or impairment of health before recommending the provision of milk. Milk is granted only where the family income is below the scale approved by your Committee as set forth on page 33.

Before any such grant is made, it must, except in case of emergency, be authorised by the Medical Officer of Health and a member of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and all authorisations are reviewed by a sub-committee of this Committee. Free milk is also given under the same conditions to expectant and nursing mothers.

The following table shows the amount of milk and Virol distributed free and sold, the figures for 1937 being given for comparison.

LIQUID MILK DISTRIBUTED FREE.

1938.
29,048 pints.

1937.
20,284 pints.

SALE OF OTHER FOODS.

Foods	Sold at full cost		Sold at half cost		Given free		Total amount of Food disposed of		Cash received from Sales					
	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938		1937			
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Dried Milk	2375	3015	—	—	581	159	2956	3174	213	15	3	268	12	7
Virol ...	875	753½	—	—	1186½	733½	2061½	1487	65	12	6	56	10	3

The rapid and continued increase in the claim upon this service does not appear to depend upon any general increase of poverty in the town. In the absence of an exact statistical survey it is only possible to suggest from general impressions formed at the Centres that the following factors may contribute :—(1) Wider knowledge of the service. (2) Influx from the distressed areas of families with a relatively low standard of nutrition. (3) Increasing incidence of high rents in proportion to family incomes. (4) An increasing readiness on the part of those who are temporarily or permanently on the borderline of poverty to accept assistance from public funds as part of the normal scheme of things.

Cod liver oil, cod liver oil and malt, and cod liver oil and malt with Parrish's food, are also distributed free to those children or expectant or nursing mothers in need of them from a special fund for this and other purposes.

In addition to cod liver oil, 288 lbs. of cod liver oil and malt, and 127 lbs. of cod liver oil and malt with Parrish's Food were so distributed.

9.—Health Visiting.

Work of Health Visitors.

Since it had become clear that with the existing staff of three Health Visitors it was impossible to attain to the standard of visiting accepted by your Committee, a fourth Health Visitor was appointed in May. In the following September, when the School Nurse retired and the School Medical Service undertook home visiting previously carried out by the School Care Committee, the health visiting and school nursing staffs were amalgamated, and a fifth Health Visitor-School Nurse was appointed in place of the retiring School Nurse. Each Health Visitor-School Nurse is now responsible for all home visits whether of school children or of pre-school children in her own area, and is thus enabled to economise time and also to gain as full a knowledge as possible of the circumstances of the families in her care. It is estimated that as a result of this reorganisation and increase of staff the time devoted by the five Health Visitor-School Nurses to the work of Maternity and Child Welfare is approximately that of $3\frac{1}{2}$ full-time officers instead of that of $2\frac{3}{4}$ as previously.

The total number of births, live and still, notified in the town after correction for residence of parents is 679*, including 665 live and 14 still births. The number is arrived at after allowance has been made for outward transfers of births in cases where parents were resident outside the Borough and inward transfers of births where the birth took place outside the Borough though the parents were normally

resident within the Borough. The following table shows the number of births occurring in institutions and those occurring in private practice of doctors and midwives, both the total notified before correction, and the number after correction for outward transfers only, the information required for the table not being available in the case of inward transfers.

* Excluding births at the Bedford and County Girls' Home.

Table of Live Births Notified.

				In Institutions.		In Private Practice. By Doctors.	By Midwives.
Total	...	...	...	343	...	220	... 353
After correction of outward transfers only	...	...	...	186†	...	155	... 333

† Includes 36 live births at Bedford and County Girls' Home.

The general scheme of health visiting provides for the payment of a first visit to all infants (except where such visits are obviously unnecessary) as soon after the 14th day as possible, followed by a monthly visit during the first year, visits every other month during the second year, and every fourth month thereafter till the age of five years, or till the child goes to school.

The following table shows the work carried out by the Health Visitors :—

	1938	1937
Total primary visits paid to infants ...	566	541
Total re-visits, under 1 year ...	2,070	1,601
Total re-visits, 1 to 5 years ...	4,353	2,779
Total number of ante-natal visits ...	70	58
Total number of special visits ...	82	87
Total number of useless visits, <i>e.g.</i> mother not at home ...	1,173	994
Total number of post-natal visits ...	40	27

The table shows that of the corrected total live births notified, 88.0 per cent. were visited by the Health Visitors. It will be noted that the total number of visits paid during the year under review (8354) is, as was to be expected, considerably larger than the number during the previous year (6087).

The following table is an indication of the success of the Health Visitors in encouraging breast feeding as distinct from artificial feeding. The figures relate to the visits paid at or soon after the attainment of the age of 6 months.

Breast and Artificial Feeding.

			Entirely breast fed.		Partially breast fed.		Artificially fed.				
			1938	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937			
Regular attendants at Centres			96	72	...	18	15	...	97	86	
Children visited at home not included in above			...	137	99	...	13	11	...	102	123
Totals			...	233	171	...	31	26	...	199	209

10.—Dental Treatment.**REPORT OF THE DENTAL OFFICER,****V. A. VASEY, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).****(a) Scope of Work.****(i) CHILDREN BELOW SCHOOL AGE.**

Children found by the Health Visitors during the course of their ordinary visiting or at the Centres to be in need of dental treatment are recommended to obtain this from the dental clinic. Arrangements have been made by the Dental Officer so that children can be seen at the clinic any afternoon during the school terms, between 4 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. By this means children are not kept waiting too long before they can receive treatment.

(ii) EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.

Those mothers with defective teeth are advised by the Medical Officer of the Welfare Centres to attend the dental clinic. It is very satisfactory to observe that the majority of mothers are expectant who do visit the clinic. Since May 31st special gas clinics for expectant and nursing mothers have been held on alternate Tuesdays at 9.30 a.m.

(b) Report on Treatment.**(i) DENTAL TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE.**

The treatment for these children is much the same as in previous years. The majority of the work done was extractions, since it was found that of the children examined most of them had decayed teeth which were not suitable for conservative treatment. Much of these conditions could be avoided by careful attention to the child's diet and general hygiene of the mouth. It is a common experience on examining a child's mouth to find decayed teeth with heaps of soft pappy débris clinging to them, and it is not surprising to find that these teeth have decayed because there is nothing more conducive to bacteria thriving in such conditions. Mothers should strive to get their

little ones at the earliest age to get the habit of regularly cleaning their teeth. They should see that as far as possible they have such foods as will help the formation of their teeth and also develop the growth of their jaws, so that they will develop sufficiently to carry all the teeth they are supposed to do.

General anaesthetics are given to all children requiring extractions, for without this it would be impossible to do anything with these little ones.

(ii) DENTAL TREATMENT FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.

During the year 1938 advantage of the facilities for dental treatment was taken by 101 mothers; this is practically the same number as the previous year. It is very encouraging that so many mothers do avail themselves of treatment, and it must be very much better for them to have their babies and give them attention with mouths that are free from sepsis.

But there are still many mothers who come under this scheme and who certainly need attention. Unfortunately they are mostly held back by fear and dread of dental treatment. This is to be deplored, because unwittingly they are not giving themselves or their unborn children a fair chance. In these cases of septic mouths matter must be absorbed by the mother, and consequently have a very bad reaction on her general well-being, and that of the children.

Dealing with the figures which are given below, the number of children attending the clinic is somewhat higher than in the year 1937, while the number of mothers is practically the same. Nevertheless, the number of extractions is less than last year, and this certainly points out the fact that in each individual mouth there were not so many decayed teeth, and this obviously is some improvement since it seems to suggest that children and mothers are having attention before their mouths get in too bad a condition.

The following tables show the treatment for the year 1938 :—

Dental Treatment of Pre-School Children.

					Number treated.	
					1938	1937
Number of individual children attending					201	150
Number of attendances made by these children					225	157
Number of extractions					493	486
Number of fillings					11	14
Number of scalings					6	4
Number of general anaesthetics					135	144

Dental Treatment of Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

	1938	1937
Number of mothers attending—		
(a) Expectant	68	64
(b) Nursing	33	36
Number of attendances	404	313
Number of extractions	555	705
Number of general anaesthetics	104	97
Number of fillings	3	2
Number of scalings	6	8
Other operations	128	120
Dentures supplied to—		
(a) Expectant mothers	44	70
(b) Nursing mothers	20	
	1938	1937
Fees paid for dentures to manufacturer	£84 14 6	£56 10 4
Cost recovered from patients	£38 12 0	£22 10 0

REPORT (continued) BY DORA MASON, M.A., M.B., B.S.**Assistant Medical Officer of Health.****Medical Officer in charge of Centres.****11.—Public Health Act, 1936, Part VII., Child Life Protection.**

The Public Health Act, 1936, deals in Part VII. with Child Life Protection, and with certain exceptions provides for the supervision of all children under nine who are put out to nurse apart from their parents for payment. The Health Visitors act as Child Protection Visitors under the Act.

Generally such children in Bedford are well cared for. Of the few cases in which the provisions as to the giving of notices were not complied with, in only two was the cause found on investigation to be other than ignorance.

The following table shows the work done under the Acts :—

	1938	1937
Number of primary visits	10	15
Number of re-visits	61	80
Number of special visits	1	15
Number of useless visits	9	20
Number of preliminary visits (before reception of child)	2	6

12.—Public Health Act, 1936, Part VI., Nursing Homes.

The Public Health Act provides for the registration and inspection of Nursing Homes formerly governed by the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927.

At the beginning of the year under review there were seven registered nursing homes in the Borough, including three premises of larger type used for maternity and other cases, two small maternity homes, a small home for aged gentlewomen, and the Bedford and County Girls' Home.

In the course of the year the Home for Aged Gentlewomen was voluntarily closed and one of the smaller maternity homes was transferred to larger premises and re-registered in respect of one medical bed in addition to maternity beds. One new maternity home and one new nursing home for medical and maternity cases were registered.

The total number of beds in Registered Nursing Homes at the end of the year was 57, including 28 maternity and 29 other beds. The addresses of the registered nursing homes in the Borough, together with the accommodation for maternity and other patients, are given below.

Address of Home.	Beds.		Total
	Maternity	Other	
26, de Parys Avenue	3	4*	7
42, de Parys Avenue	3	8†	11
23, Kimbolton Road	4	7†	11
34, Kimbolton Road	3	9†	12
9, St. Augustine's Road	5	1*	6
84, Castle Road	5	—	5
15, Conduit Road	3	—	3
Bedford and County Girls' Home, Park Road North	2	—	2
	—	—	—
Total	28	29	57
	—	—	—

* For medical cases.

† For medical or surgical cases.

The smaller homes are inspected regularly by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health; the larger ones are visited as occasion requires. The Bedford County Hospital is exempt from the provisions of the Act.

III. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for much of the information under the following headings relating to water, drainage and sewerage, and scavenging, showing developments which have taken place during the year under review.

1.—Water.

The water has continued to be satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year.

(a) Bacteriological Results.

Bacteriological samples are normally taken weekly from the water after final treatment, either at the works or from a tap in the town, and approximately eight times in the year from each of the following points :—The river, the rising main, the old storage reservoir, one of the new storage reservoirs, the effluent from each of the filters taken separately, and the water consisting of the combined effluent from all the filters at the inlet to the chlorinating tank before final chlorination.

The results indicate that the water is of good quality. The following are typical results of analysis.

Date.		Number of colonies growing on gelatine in 3 days at 22 degrees C.	Number of colonies growing on agar in 24 hours at 37 degrees C.		Present in	B.Coli.	Absent in	
	<i>River.</i>							
3rd Oct., 1938	...	Liquefied	114	...	1 c.c.	...	0.1 c.c.	
	<i>Rising Main.</i>							
19th Sept., 1938	...	424	...	82	...	1 c.c.	...	0.1 c.c.
	<i>Old Storage Reservoir (1).</i>							
2nd Oct., 1938	...	Liquefied	216	...	10 c.c.	...	1 c.c.	
	<i>New Storage Reservoirs (2, 3 & 4).</i>							
19th Oct., 1938	...	Liquefied	50	...	10 c.c.	...	1 c.c.	
	<i>Filter No. 7.</i>							
14th March, 1938	...	13	...	3	...	—	...	100 c.c.
	<i>Inlet to Chlorinating Tank.</i>							
12th Dec., 1938	...	27	...	11	...	—	...	100 c.c.
	<i>Outlet from Chlorinating Tank.</i>							
28th March, 1938	...	12	...	4	...	—	...	100 c.c.

The following table shows the average results of all samples taken :—

TABLE OF BACTERIAL RESULTS.

Situation of Sample.	Number of Samples.	Average Gelatine Count.	Average Agar Count.	B. Coli. (typical)							
				— 100 cc.	† 100 cc.	† 50 cc.	† 20 cc.	† 10 cc.	† 1 cc.	† .1 cc.	† .01 cc.
River	10	All Liquefied	207	—	—	—	2	1	5	2	—
Rising Main	10	201	109	1	—	2	1	—	6	—	—
New Storage Reservoirs	13	1232	88	—	—	3	1	4	5	—	—
Old Storage Reservoir	8	All Liquefied	101	1	—	3	1	2	1	—	—
Filters 1, 2, 3	7	22	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Filter 4	10	40	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Filter 5	10	108	7	9	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Filter 6	10	24	7	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Filter 7	11	11	10	10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Filter 8	10	6	4	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Filter 9	10	31	11	8	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Filter 10	10	125	13	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Filter 11	11	29	20	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Filter 12	9	27	14	6	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
†Filter 13	8	44	25	6	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Inlet to Chlorinating Tank	10	33	13	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outlet from Chlorinating Tank	41	11	7	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Houses in town	10	17	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

† Sample taken from filter when effluent was not passing into supply not included.

It may be stated generally that the water *before* final chlorination usually satisfies the highest drinking water standard of a gelatine count below 100 per c.c. and absence of b.coli. in 100 c.c.

The following table shows the percentage of first class samples (absence of b.coli. in 100 c.c.) in the water, *ust* before chlorination, and in the finally chlorinated water either at the works or in the town during the years since chlorination was first started.

FIRST CLASS SAMPLES.

Percentage of Samples with absence of b. coli. in 100 cc.

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Effluent from individual filters	Not taken	97.2%	82.4%	93.8%	92.9%	93.9%	80.0%	85.8%	
Water before final chlorination (combined effluent from filters)	87.5%	77.7%	100%	85.7%	60%	90%	77.7%	56.0%	100.0%
Finally treated water (at works or houses in town)	100%	100%	97.6%	100%	100%	97.9%	97.7%	91.4%	100.0%

(b) Extensions and Improvements.

Mr. C. H. Blakeway, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, writes as follows :—

2.—Water Supply.**(a) Continuous treatment for the prevention of Algal growths.**

“The present form of treatment appears to be effective in controlling the growths of algae, and no undue trouble has been experienced.”

(b) Extensions.

“Several lengths of new mains have been laid in connection with various Housing Schemes.

“A trunk main to augment the supply to the Queens Park area is in course of construction.

“Work has been proceeding with the reconstruction of Filters 1, 2 and 3, and shortly this will be completed.

“A chlorograph has been installed in the chlorinating house which continuously automatically records on a chart the amount of chlorine being injected into the supply.

“The feed lines in connection with the chlorination and de-chlorination of the supply have been duplicated, so that any interruption of the supply will only be of a short duration.

“No new work is contemplated at the purification works.”

(c) General.

“The general condition of the water supply remained good during 1938.”

(d) Water Supply to Houses.

Apart from 16 houses, the site of which was shown in last year's Report, all houses are provided with water from the Corporation supply.

All houses supplied from the Corporation supply have water service pipes installed internally, with the exception of 13 which are in the nature of almshouses and 19 which are to be demolished in the near future.

(e) Rainfall.

The monthly amounts of rainfall for the year are as follows :—

						Inches.
January	...	...	...	...	...	1.87
February	...	...	...	...	...	0.57
March	...	...	...	...	...	0.15
April	...	...	...	...	...	0.05
May	...	...	...	...	...	1.91
June	...	...	...	...	...	0.50
July	...	...	...	...	...	1.35
August	...	...	...	...	...	3.18
September	...	...	...	...	...	1.51
October	...	...	...	...	...	2.26
November	...	...	...	...	...	1.89
December	...	...	...	...	...	2.74
Total						17.98

The total was 2.87 inches below the average for the last 10 years.

3.—Drainage and Sewerage.

The Borough Surveyor writes as follows :—

“ Sewers have been laid in Putnoe Lane and in Brookfield Road (northern part).

“ Work has been carried out on the reconstruction of surface water culverts in Goldington.

“ The number of houses with cesspools at the front where drains have now been connected to the public sewer is 136.

“ The number of houses with cesspools at the rear where drains have now been connected to the public sewer is 283.

“ No houses have been erected where drainage is connected to cesspools.

“ The installation of Diesel engines and pumps at the Sewage Pumping Station was commenced during the year.”

There are now only 16 premises in the Borough the drainage of which is to cesspools, and in the case of which no sewer is available for connection. A list of these premises was given in last year's Report.

In addition to the work necessary to substitute sewer connections for cesspools, drainage work was also necessary in consequence of the conversion of 136 pail closets to water closets, which took place during the course of the year. Nearly all of these premises were already provided with cesspools for slop water, and are hence indicated in the figures just given of premises where cesspools were dispensed with.

4.—River and Streams.

The river has been kept under observation during the year with the view to checking pollution.

5.—Closet Accommodation.

There is separate closet accommodation at each house in the Borough with the exception of 13 Almshouses, St. John's Place (5) and St. Loyes Street (8), at which there are in all 7 closets.

All the premises in the old Borough have water closets with the exception of 7 houses and 7 factories which have pail closets, and are remotely situated.

The scheme for closet accommodation in the added area was completed during the year. The total number of conversions carried out since the beginning of the scheme was 297, of which 136 were carried out during 1938.

There remain 27 houses in the added area in which conversion is impossible on account of their remote situation. There are 17 houses in the Goldington District shortly to be demolished in which closet conversion has not been carried out. There are also 2 buildings of the type of wooden bungalows in a somewhat remote situation in which the cost of conversion is not justified.

6.—Public Cleansing.

No alterations to the existing arrangements have been made during the past year.

House refuse collected and disposed of was 12,086 tons. The trade refuse disposed of was 1,841 tons.

7.—Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

For details of the sanitary inspection of the area, including work under the Public Health and Housing Acts, in connection with Houses Let-in-Lodgings, Common Lodging Houses, Factories Act, Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, Smoke Abatement and other matters, reference is made to the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector at the end of this Report.

8.—Swimming Baths and Pools.

No alterations were made in any of the public or private baths.

Five samples of water were taken from the public baths, of which the following are typical results :—

Date.	Site.	Gelatine Agar.		B. Coli.	
		Count.	Count.	present in	absent in
16/5/38	Commercial Baths	Liquefied	34	10 c.c.	1 c.c.
16/5/38	Newnham Baths ...	Liquefied	54	20 c.c.	10 c.c.
16/5/38	Queens Park Baths	Liquefied	59	10 c.c.	1 c.c.

These samples may be regarded as satisfactory for river bathing places.

9.—Schools.

No sanitary work of importance was carried out at any of the schools.

IV. Housing.

1.—Statistical Table.

The following table gives the statistics of housing work undertaken during the year under review :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1433
	(b)	Number of inspections, including reinspections, made for the purpose	12652
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	996
	(b)	Number of inspections, including reinspections, made for the purpose	9635
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	21
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	940

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	967
--	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners	8
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—	
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	—	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—	
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—	
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	9	
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—	
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—	
4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—		
(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	7	
2. Number of Families dwelling therein	7	
3. Number of persons dwelling therein :		
Adults over 10	40	
Over 1 year but under 10	11	
Under 1 year	—	
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	28	
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	78	
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases :—		
Adults over 10	424	
Over 1 year but under 10	145	
Under 1 year	7	

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding —
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report (see page

2.—Observations on Statistics.

The 1433 houses inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts may be classified as follows :—

I.—Houses inspected under Housing Acts.				
(i)	Reasonably capable of repair	...	...	671
(ii)	Not requiring repairs	...	...	304
(iii)	Totally unfit for human habitation	...		21
				— 996
II.—Houses inspected under Public Health Acts.				
(i)	Minor defects	...	...	269
(ii)	Not requiring repairs	...	...	168
				— 437
				—
	Grand total	...	...	1433

Of the 671 houses included under I. (i) above, 385 were repaired before the end of the year under review, and in the case of the remaining 286 the necessary works were completed during the early part of the current year.

In the case of the 269 houses included in II. (i) above, all the notices were complied with at the end of the year under review.

With regard to the notices not fully complied with at the end of the year, severe wintry conditions, such as gales and snow, caused a large increase in repairs to roofs and other external work, and in consequence internal repairs of a less serious nature had to give way to more urgent requirements.

3.—Housing Conditions.

General Summary.

In previous annual reports the number of houses divided into categories in accordance with the number of rooms they contain has been estimated by combining information contained in the last census, the results of the overcrowding survey carried out in 1936, and the changes which have taken place as the result of new building and demolitions.

The following table shows the position at the end of the year under review.

No. of Houses in Categories based on Number of Rooms.

No. of rooms.	No. of houses in categories Dec. 31st, 1937.	Houses built in 1938.	Houses demolished or no longer used as dwelling houses during 1938.	Alterations due to conversions during 1938.	Total houses 31st Dec., 1938.
1	6	—	—	—	6
2	36	—	1	1	36
3	705	2	2	1	706
4	1477	75	18	8	1542
5	4911	318	2	—	5227
6-8	4613	67	—	—	4680
9 or more	1246	—	—	—	1246
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	12994	462	23	10	13443
	—	—	—	—	—

The following table shows the number of houses on the Corporation Housing Estates.

TYPE OF HOUSE.	Number of houses of each type.	Number of rooms in each type.	No. of houses containing number of rooms shown.
Parlour type with 4 bedrooms	46	6	46
Parlour type with 3 bedrooms	210	5	210
Non-parlour type with 3 bedrooms	480*	4	560
Flats, non-parlour with 3 bedrooms	80	4	
Non-parlour type with 2 bedrooms	126	3	230
Flats, non-parlour with 2 bedrooms	104	3	
Total ...	1046		1046

* Includes 12 houses in Goldington Village taken over from Bedford Rural District.

It is possible by combining the two tables just given to form an estimate of the number of privately-owned houses of smaller types, 3- and 4-roomed, mainly in the older parts of the town.

Table of Houses of Smaller Type.

No. of rooms.		Total houses in categories.		Corporation estates.		Privately-owned houses mainly in older parts of the town, though including a few houses of recent construction.
3	...	706	...	230	...	476
4	...	1542	...	560	...	982

4.—Housing Act, 1936.**(a) Houses Incapable of Repair at Reasonable Cost.**

Formal representations were made in respect of 21 houses during the year as under :—

Situation.				Number of Houses.
3, 5, 7 and 9, Bell Court	...	...	...	4
409-427, Goldington Road	...	...	...	10
494-496, Goldington Road	...	...	...	2
1, Bury Walk	...	...	...	1
22-24, Cricket Lane	...	...	...	2
Lodge Cottage, Putnoe Street	...	...	...	1
8, Goldington Green	...	...	...	1
				—
Total	...	...	...	21
				—

The building of houses as alternative accommodation is to be completed during the summer of the current year, and in view of this the Authority decided that with the exceptions to be mentioned the serving of Demolition Orders be deferred until early in 1939.

With respect to the two houses, 22 and 24, Cricket Lane, in view of the advanced age of the owner (who occupies one of the houses) the Authority decided to postpone making Demolition Orders for the present.

(b) Houses Demolished apart from Demolition Orders.

Twenty houses, generally of poor type, were demolished during the year as hereunder :—

No. of House and Situation.				
1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, Allhallows Lane	...	...	...	11
15, 17, 19, 25, 27, 29, 31, Dane Street	...	...	...	7
86-88, Fenlake Road	...	...	...	2
				—
Total	...	...	...	20
				—

The 18 houses in Allhallows Lane and Dane Street were the property of the Corporation, and were demolished in connection with the development of a "Car Park" in this area; while the remaining 2 cottages were demolished for purpose of extension of adjoining business premises. Most of these houses were of a poor standard and the development scheme created a suitable opportunity for their demolition.

In addition 10 houses in Church's Square have been purchased by the Corporation, and as these are of a poor standard they will be demolished when alternative accommodation becomes available.

(c) Houses Capable of Repair at a Reasonable Cost.

The following table shows the number of houses inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, in the year under review and the preceding nine years in accordance with the programme submitted annually to your Public Health and Housing Committee.

1929	...	...	...	...	114
1930	...	...	...	...	178
1931	...	...	...	...	358
1932	...	...	...	...	618
1933	...	...	...	...	762
1934	...	...	...	...	1005
1935	...	...	...	...	603
1936	...	...	...	...	521
1937	...	...	...	...	1184
1938	...	...	...	...	975
Total					6318

5.—Municipal Housing Estates.

A total of 95 houses was built during the year under Municipal Housing Schemes.

The following table has been furnished by the Housing Manager, and shows the present position with regard to applicants for municipal houses.

**Summary of Applications for Houses on the Corporation Estates
as at December 31st, 1938.**

		December 1938.	Regarded as urgent.
1.	<i>Applicants with families in rooms—</i>		
	(a) In Bedford	102	102
	(b) Out of area, working in Bedford	3	3
	(c) Ditto, not working in Bedford	5	—
2.	<i>Householders with families—</i>		
	(a) In Bedford	111	*30
	(b) Out of area, working in Bedford	34	20
	(c) Ditto, not working in Bedford	26	—

					December 1938.	Regarded as urgent.
3.	<i>Overcrowded families—</i>					
	In houses and flats in Bedford ...				1 ...	1
4.	<i>Applicants with families in Registered Houses let in Lodgings ...</i>				20 ...	20
5.	<i>Applicants without children ...</i>				79 ...	—
6.	<i>Single Persons ...</i>				22 ...	—
7.	<i>Aged Persons ...</i>				4 ...	—
					<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total ...				407	176

* Estimated number of applicants paying excessive rents.

As compared with the end of 1937 the total number of applicants was 407 in comparison with 405, and of applicants regarded as urgent 176 in comparison with 201.

At the present time 86 houses are in course of erection on the London Road and Goldington Estates.

6.—Progress of Building since the War.

The following table shows the progress of building since the war :—

Number of Houses built since the War to 31st December, 1938.

Year.		Subsidy Private Enterprise.		Local Authority.		Private Enterprise No Grant.		Conversions etc.		Total per year.
1919	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
1920	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1
1921	...	1	...	84	...	3	...	—	...	88
1922	...	6	...	114	...	3	...	—	...	123
1923	...	—	...	2	...	24	...	—	...	26
1924	...	25	...	—	...	47*	...	—	...	72
1925	...	63	...	—	...	19	...	—	...	82
1926	...	51	...	40	...	27	...	—	...	118
1927	...	36	...	32	...	30*	...	—	...	98
1928	...	36	...	—	...	50*	...	—	...	86
1929	...	23	...	76	...	50	...	—	...	149
1930	...	—	...	16	...	70	...	—	...	86
1931	...	—	...	116	...	63	...	1	...	180
1932	...	—	...	42†	...	57	...	2	...	101
1933	...	—	...	190‡	...	110	...	6	...	306
1934¶	...	—	...	100	...	159	...	—	...	259
1935	...	—	...	—	...	336	...	—	...	336
1936	...	—	...	2°	...	334	...	—	...	336

Year.		Subsidy Private Enterprise.		Local Authority.		Private Enterprise No. Grant.		Conversions etc.		Total per year.
1937	...	—	...	128	...	284	...	—	...	412
1938	...	—	...	95§	...	367	...	10	...	472
		—		—		—		—		—
Totals	...	242	...	1037	...	2033	...	19	...	3331
		—		—		—		—		—

* These figures each include a public house.

† These 42 houses were built outside the then existing Borough boundary by the Borough Council.

‡ Includes 168 houses built outside the then existing Borough boundary by the Borough Council.

¶ Borough boundary extended on April 1st, 1934. In the added areas, apart from houses built by the Borough Council, approximately 165 houses were built since the Census, 1931, till April 1st, 1934, 12 by the Rural District Council, the remainder by private enterprise, with or without subsidy.

° Park Lodges, not part of Municipal Housing Estates.

§ Includes one house built to replace house and shop demolished in consequence of development scheme.

In connection with this table may be noticed the large amount of private building which has taken place during the last four years and is still continuing at a rapid rate.

7.—Overcrowding.

The statistics relating to overcrowding and the action taken is to be found in the table on page 58 at the beginning of this section.

The 42 houses constructed for the relief of overcrowding in large families were completed during 1938 and the houses are now occupied.

In the course of periodic review of border-line cases, on account of increasing ages of children, 7 cases of overcrowding have occurred during the year. It is anticipated that suitable opportunities will occur for relieving these cases in the early part of the current year.

In addition to these cases 21 other cases were discovered in one way or another. These either have or will be suitably dealt with.

It is difficult to ascertain at any particular time precise information as to overcrowding since there is constant movement of population, and reliance must be placed on periodic review of border-line cases or information obtained in connection with applications for Council Houses.

To discover the true position a further comprehensive survey would be necessary, but any results to be obtained would not justify so great an expenditure of time and money.

V. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

1.—Milk.

(a) Sources of Supply.

The main supply of milk in the town is from farms situated within the County. There is now only one cowshed within the Borough.

(b) Registration of Purveyors of Milk and Dairy Premises.

The following statement shows the numbers on the register at the end of the year :—

Number of cowsheds on register ...	...	...	...	1
Number of registered dairies situated in the Borough				34
				—
				35
				—
Number of Borough purveyors on register ...	...	...	...	39
Number of County purveyors on register ...	...	...	...	29
Number of shops dealing in bottled milk ...	...	...	...	97
				—
				165
				—

(c) Cowsheds.

There was one cowshed only remaining in the Borough at the end of the year, at which some 8 cows are housed. Ordinary ungraded milk is produced in these premises. The results of inspection were satisfactory.

(d) Dairy Premises.

Inspection of the 34 dairies in the Borough has shown that conditions generally are satisfactory. Three dairies were deleted from the register during the year on discontinuation of business. In consequence of action taken in the previous year, adequate provision is now made in each dairy for the efficient cleansing and sterilisation by steam of milk receptacles and utensils. At many dairies facilities for cold storage are provided.

In addition to inspection of dairy premises, attention is given to the vehicles and utensils used in the distribution of milk.

The bulk of the milk is supplied in bottles. It may be mentioned that during the year no instance of the filling of bottles otherwise than on registered premises was observed.

(e) Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

For the purpose of ascertaining the degree of cleanliness of the milk supply, in addition to samples of Graded milk, 87 samples of other milk were procured as shown hereunder and submitted for examination.

The number of satisfactory and unsatisfactory samples is indicated in accordance with the explanation below.

Source of Supply.	Total No. of Samples.	Satisfactory.	Not Satisfactory.
1. Milk obtained from producers on delivery to retailers ...	12	8	4
2. Milk samples taken from various retailers	12	6	6
3. Milk as supplied to elementary schools :			
(a) Raw	8	3	5
(b) Pasteurised (in fact)	49	47	2
4. Milk taken from plants in process of pasteurisation ...	6	Standard not applicable.	
	—		
	87		
	—		

In interpreting the results of the analyses, in the case of raw milk the standard of accredited milk is taken as the standard which should at least be aimed at for all milk, while in the case of milk which has in fact been pasteurised though not sold under this designation, included under the heading 3 (b) of the table, the standard for pasteurised milk sold as such is taken. In all cases the vendors are informed of the results of the analyses, and in a general way an attempt is made to improve the quality of their milk when the bacterial count is unsatisfactory on the standard taken. Where milk is supplied to schools under the milk-in-schools scheme of the Milk Marketing Board, the Medical Officer of Health must approve the supply before it is sanctioned by the Milk Marketing Board. In the case of milk which remained persistently below the standard the power of refusing to approve the supply would be exercised. Not

only in the case of milk supplied to schools, but in other cases the results of examinations can be used to show the purveyor where his milk falls short of the desirable standard, and to indicate to the inspector the necessity for improvements in dairy management. Though the results attained fall short of the wishes of idealists, yet there can be little doubt that much improvement is achieved by persistent sampling, followed when necessary by equally persistent persuasion.

(f) Milk-Examination for Tuberculosis.

Eighteen samples of milk obtained from individual producers, either direct or through retailers, were submitted for examination, both microscopical and biological.

One sample was reported upon as "Positive" on biological examination, while the remaining samples were reported as being free from tubercle bacilli. The report on the Positive sample was referred to the County Authority for necessary action.

Investigations were made at the farm and 4 group samples of milk from a herd of 22 cows, and samples of milk from 2 separate cows, were taken and submitted to the biological test. The samples were proved to be non-tuberculous. As in similar cases, the offending animal had no doubt been disposed of between taking the sample and the consequent investigation on receipt of the report.

(g) Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

The classes of Graded milk sold in the Borough under the above-named Orders are as shown hereunder, together with the average daily amount sold, according to information supplied from distributors. The figures obtained during the early part of 1939 may be compared with the corresponding figures for 1938.

Grade of Milk.				Average Daily Sale.		
				1938	1939	
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	31 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	59 gallons.
Accredited	...	...	...	253 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	471 „
Pasteurised	...	...	...	1325 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	1296 „
				—————	—————	
				1610 $\frac{3}{4}$	1826	„
				—————	—————	

The undermentioned licences granted by the Town Council with regard to graded milk sold in the Borough were in operation during the year under review.

Grade of Milk.				Bottling.	Distributors.	Distributors (Supplementary.)	
Tuberculin Tested ...				2	3	...	1
Accredited ...				4	7	...	4
Pasteurised ...				...	Pasteurisers.	Distributors only.	
				...	4	...	1

In addition one firm of producer-retailers who hold a licence from the County Council retail accredited milk within the Borough. Previously there were 6 purveyors in this category, but during the year 5 of these were absorbed into a Limited Company of Graded Milk Distributors, while the sixth no longer retails milk direct.

One dealer's licence for the use of accredited milk in the manufacture of ice cream only was granted during the year. This is included in the figure for distributors' licences given above.

Graded Milk Samples.

The table given below shows the number and results of samples of Graded milk submitted for examination by the appropriate test.

Grade of Milk.				No. of Samples.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
1.	Tuberculin Tested ...			3	3	—
2.	Accredited ...			48	28	20
3.	Pasteurised (Bacterial Count) ...			143	139	4
4.	Pasteurised (Phosphatase Test)			139	136	3

In the case of milks untreated by heat, namely tuberculin-tested and accredited, the tests applied are the methylene blue reduction test and the *b.coli* content.

In the case of pasteurised milk, in addition to the general bacterial count the *b.coli* content is also reported upon, since, although it is not included in the official standard, it serves as a useful indication of the efficiency of the pasteurisation process, especially with regard to recontamination after pasteurisation.

Samples are classified as satisfactory if in the case of the first three categories they comply in all respects with the official standard of methylene blue reduction and *b.coli* content (1 and 2) or bacterial counts (3), and in the case of the phosphatase test of pasteurised samples if efficient heating is indicated by this test.

(h) Milk as supplied to Mothers and Children under the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and Milk-in-Schools Scheme.

Some reference has been already made to the Milk-in-Schools Scheme under the heading of bacterial examination. In amplification of what has already been said it may be here stated that the standard of approval is that milk should be either of accredited production or should have been in fact efficiently pasteurised, and should satisfy respectively the methylene blue test for accredited milk or the bacterial standard for pasteurised milk. On account of the method of supply it is not practicable to insist that the milk should in all respects comply with the Milk (Special Designations) Order with regard to labelling and capping.

In the case of milk supplied under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme an approved list of purveyors is kept, and only those purveyors are approved who are prepared to supply either accredited or pasteurised milk complying in all respects with the standard of the Order.

2.—Meat and Other Foods.

(a) Meat.

There were 15 slaughterhouses in the Borough which were in use during 1938, in which a total of 11,341 animals were slaughtered during the year. Routine inspection was made not only of those animals slaughtered in the Borough, but also of 1,640 animals slaughtered in other areas.

The Meat Marketing Scheme under Part III. of the Public Health Meat Regulations 1924 is not operative in this Borough.

Attention is also given to the inspection of imported meat, both at the two wholesale meat depots and at the various shops and stalls where it is exposed for sale by retail.

Weekly fat stock markets are generally held each Saturday, and all animals admitted to these markets are under the supervision of Veterinary Inspectors, but apart from this there is no systematic ante-mortem inspection of animals used for food.

The incidence of disease in food animals is shown in the tables following, from which it may be observed that meat of good quality is purveyed in the Borough.

Unsound or diseased home-killed meat discovered in the course of inspection was voluntarily surrendered. In addition surrender notes were issued in respect of 1,345 lbs. of imported meat. During the year there was no occasion for the making of any formal seizure.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle (excluding cows).	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed	1040	68	203	4870	5160
No. inspected	1256*	118*	203*	5390*	6014*
<i>All diseases except tuberculosis.</i> Whole carcases condemned ...	—	1	—	—	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	7	1	—	4	23
Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	0.56 %	1.69 %	—	0.07 %	0.55 %
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i> Whole carcases condemned ...	1	1	1	—	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	20	10	—	—	60
Percentage of number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	1.68 %	9.32 %	0.50 %	—	1.11 %

* Includes animals slaughtered elsewhere systematically inspected in Bedford,

(b) Other Foods.

Observation is maintained as a routine of foods other than meat. The undermentioned foodstuffs were inspected and surrendered for destruction as being unfit for human consumption.

Class of Food.	No. of lbs.
Tinned goods—various commodities (2,564 containers)	2023
Prepared Meats	34
Fish	21
Poultry	30
Eggs (Imported)	28
	<hr/> 2,136 <hr/>

The total amount of meat and other foods surrendered and destroyed at the Refuse Destructor Works during the year was as shown hereunder.

Home-killed meat	5,403 lbs.
Imported meat	1,345 „
Other foods	2,136 „
	<hr/>
Total	8,884 „ <hr/>

3.—Food Premises.

(a) Summary of Inspections.

The classes of premises where food is prepared and sold and the number of visits made are given below.

Class of Premises.	No. of Premises.	No. of Visits.
Slaughterhouses	14	1632
Meat Shops	57	749
Cold Stores	1	6
Fish Shops and Fish-frying Premises	26	459
Fruiterers, Greengrocers	56	356
Grocers and General Stores	187	199
Bakehouses	55	93
Restaurants and Tea Rooms	28	34
Hotels and Public Houses	109	797
Chocolate, Sweets and Biscuit Premises	3	9
Market Stalls	44	747
Ice Cream Premises	83	68
Dairy Premises	34	530
Milk Bars	4	19

(b) Slaughterhouses—Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.**(i) Slaughterhouses.**

There remained on the Register at the end of 1938 a total of 14 slaughterhouses, of which 3 are “registered” and 11 “licensed.” There were thus 3 slaughterhouses less than in the previous year, one “registered” and one “licensed” slaughterhouse having been demolished during 1938, while the licence in respect of one slaughterhouse was not renewed on account of its not being used.

The requirements of the Byelaw relating to cleanliness and removal of refuse were well observed. The premises generally were maintained in a satisfactory state of repair. In two instances works of structural improvement were carried out.

(ii) Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The statutory requirements as to “humane” slaughter applies to all classes of animals slaughtered in the Borough, and during the year no case of infringement was noted.

The licences issued to slaughtermen during the year under the above-named Act are as under:—

New licences issued	...	...	...	...	11
Renewed licences	...	...	...	...	65
					—
	Total	...	...	...	76
					—

(c) Shops, Stalls and Vehicles.

Regular and frequent visits were paid to premises used for the preparation, storage and sale of food, and generally these premises have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

With regard to the stalls on the Market Hill, although care is exercised by the stall-holders, there is some inevitable risk of contamination of food on account of the proximity of the stalls to the adjacent streets.

(d) Bakehouses.

At the end of the year there were 55 bakehouses in use and occupation as such; none of these are of the underground type. All bakehouses were systematically and regularly visited, and were generally found to be in a satisfactory state.

(e) Kitchens, Hotels and Restaurants.

During the year special attention was given to the kitchens of Hotels, Restaurants and similar premises, with particular reference to suitable means of storage of food and proper methods for cleansing of utensils and equipment.

Several additional Snack Bars were established during the year and provision of suitable arrangements was secured where these were not at first satisfactory.

New cooking apparatus was installed and alterations made to the kitchen at one hotel.

(f) Ice Cream Premises.

Though there is at present no obligatory registration of premises where ice cream is manufactured or sold, general supervision is maintained. Ice cream is manufactured at 6 premises; there are 2 wholesale depots which receive ice cream manufactured elsewhere and which serve street vendors, while in addition ice cream is sold from a number of Cafés, Tea Rooms and Sweet Shops, most of which receive their supplies from large factories.

At one set of premises solely used for the manufacture of ice cream, extensive works of reconstruction were effected with the provision of new machinery, cold stores and sterilisation plant.

4.—Adulteration of Food.**(a) Milk.**

The number of formal and informal samples procured during the year is shown herewith.

Formal samples sent to the Public Analyst ...	...	103
Informal samples for Gerber Test ...	...	375
		<hr/>
		478
		<hr/>

One of the samples sent to the Public Analyst was broken in transit; of the remainder, 86 were reported upon as not adulterated, while 16 samples, or 15.5%, failed to attain to the standard laid down in the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901. The extent of the adulteration reported upon by the Public Analyst, together with action taken, is given in the following table.

Particulars of Adulteration and action taken in respect of formal samples of Milk.

Serial No. of Sample.		Food or Drug.	Nature of Adulteration.			Remarks and Action Taken.
Formal.	Informal.					
A 680		Milk	8% abstracted fat.			Case investigated and quality of milk supply improved.
A 710		"	2.5% added water.			Repeat sample 723 taken.
A 720		"	9% abstracted fat.			Vendor cautioned—subsequent sample genuine.
A 723		"	2.5% added water.			Vendor cautioned—subsequent samples genuine.
A 726		"	10% abstracted fat.			Cautioned—repeat sample 744 also adulterated.
A 728		"	4.6%	"	"	Cautioned.
A 731		"	11.0%	"	"	Cautioned.
A 736		"	9.0%	"	"	Cautioned.
A 742		"	6.6%	"	"	Proceedings instituted, withdrawn at hearing on technical grounds.
A 744		"	9.0%	"	"	Proceedings taken—case dismissed.
A 747		"	6.6%	"	"	Proceedings taken—case dismissed.
A 748		"	4.0%	"	"	No action taken against vendor but proceedings against producer Sample 751.
A 750		"	2.0%	"	"	Cautioned.
A 751		"	5.0%	"	"	Proceedings taken—case dismissed.
A 763		"	4.0%	"	"	Cautioned—subsequent samples genuine.
A 780		"	7.0%	"	"	Cautioned—subsequent samples genuine.

With regard to the prosecutions for deficiency in fat content the following comments may be made. The arguments for and against prosecutions in these cases may be given in tabular form as follows :

FOR.	AGAINST.
<p>It is the duty of the vendor to sell milk which is not below the legal standard, and to take effectual measures to ensure that this standard is maintained.</p> <p>The decision as to whether fat deficiency is due to abstraction of fat, or to more or less culpable mismanagement in some branch of milk production, should be left to the magisterial bench, not to the Public Health Committee.</p>	<p>Often cows do, in fact, give milk containing less than 3% of fat. If this is due sometimes to mismanagement, it is usually due to ignorance and amenable to correction by advice.</p> <p>The Public Health Committee has far more data than the magistrates can have on which to base their opinion. The former often have the whole record of a vendor for 10 years; the latter can have only what is legally admissible as "evidence."</p>

FOR.

It is a salutary lesson to the vendor to be brought before the courts. If he is fraudulent he will be punished. If careless, he will be more careful in future.

If the law is really proved unsatisfactory, and on experience it is found that cases which should be dealt with by penalty are dismissed, the law ultimately will be brought into a more satisfactory condition.

AGAINST.

The well defended rogue is probably in general at least as likely to be successful in the courts as the man who has at most been careless in some small respect, especially if his innocence induces him to trust in it rather than in a skilful defence.

O sancta simplicitas!

Your Medical Officer of Health has always felt that the arguments against prosecution have outweighed those for prosecution. He hopes he has not stated them unfairly. Your Public Health Committee, however, in view of the large number of cases reported on as deficient in fat which occurred in the middle of the year, decided to institute legal proceedings and give this method a trial. The results are shown in the table under numbers 742, 744, 747, 751. Since this your Public Health Committee has not thought it wise to institute proceedings.

Three hundred and seventy-five samples of milk were procured informally and submitted to the Gerber Test in the Laboratory of the Public Health Department. Thirty-two samples were found to be below the prescribed standard with regard to fat content. This number does not, of course, represent the number of samples which would be deficient in a chance sampling, for the majority were examined in the effort to find the cause of deficiencies in former samples, and to effect an improvement in the milk of producers.

(b) Other Foods.

Fifty-three samples of other foods and of medicinal preparations were submitted for analysis. These were all reported upon as not adulterated with the exception of two samples of Potted Beef which were certified as containing 40 parts and 27 parts per million of Sulphite preservative respectively. These samples were procured from the same source. The cause of the adulteration was investigated and, since it appeared that the adulteration was not wilful, the vendors were cautioned.

A summary of samples procured, both of milk and of other foods and of drugs, is shown in the following table.

Table of Samples taken.

Commodity.	No. of Samples.			No. Genuine.			No. Adulterated.		
	Formal	Inf'l.	Total	Formal	Inf'l.	Total	Formal	Inf'l.	Total
Bicarb. Soda ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Black Pudding ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Borax and Honey ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Butter ...	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—
Cafe au lait ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cheese ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cocoa ...	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—
Cod liver oil ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee Essence ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Crab Paste ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cream (fresh) ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Custard (powder) ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Dripping (beef) ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Essence of Almonds ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Essence of Lemon ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Flour ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ground Almonds ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Herrings in tomato ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Honey ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Influenza Mixture ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Jam ...	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—
Lemon Curd ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Luncheon Ham ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Margarine ...	—	3	3	—	3	3	—	—	—
Meat Pie ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Milk (MalTED) ...	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—
Milk ...	103*	1	103	86	—	86	16	—	16
Mincemeat ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Minced Beef ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mixed Fruit ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mixed Peel ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Olive Oil ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pork Pie ...	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—
Potted Beef ...	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2
Quinine and Phosphorus Tablets	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Orange Curd ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Peas (tinned) ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sausage (beef) ...	—	3	3	—	3	3	—	—	—
Sausage (luncheon) ...	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—
Stomach powder ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Tinned cream ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Turkey and Ham Paste	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	104	52	156	86	51	137	17	1	18

* One sample broken in transit.

(c) Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925-1927.

Of a total of 151 samples submitted to the Public Analyst during the year, including 103 milk and 48 other foods, no preservative was discovered in 148 instances. The presence of preservative was reported in 3 instances only, namely in one sample of sausage and 2 samples

of potted beef. The sausage contained preservative within the permitted amount and was properly labelled at the time of sale. The two samples of potted beef are reported upon under "Other Foods."

(d) Margarine.

There are no premises in the Borough at which Margarine is manufactured, but there are 17 premises included in the Register as wholesale dealers. In the course of visits to retail shops attention was given to the proper labelling of margarine when exposed for sale.

Three samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act and reported upon by the Public Analyst as not adulterated.

(e) Artificial Cream Act, 1929.

There are now no premises in the Borough at which artificial cream is manufactured.

(f) Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923.

Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923-1927.

No action was taken during the year.

(g) Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.

The premises where imported meat and other specified foods included in the Orders in Council under this Act are exposed for sale have been kept under routine observation.

Communications were sent to occupiers of 25 shops with regard to failure to label imported fruit, while some of the occupiers of the stalls on the Market Hill have occasionally to be reminded of their obligations in this matter.

During the year there was no instance of contravention in which the institution of legal proceedings was warranted.

(h) Shell Fish (Mollusca).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the area, and the shell-fish sold in the Borough are derived from places some considerable distance away.

It was not found necessary on our part to take any action under the Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell Fish) Act, 1932.

(i) Watercress.

There are no watercress beds in the Borough and no cases of illness were reported in connection with watercress.

VI. Prevalence of, and Control over,
Infectious and other Diseases.

1.—Infectious Diseases, Other than Tuberculosis.

(a) General Statistics.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases :—

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1938.

Disease.	† Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.*	Total deaths registered.
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	36	34	...
Diphtheria	35	33	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	15	..	...
Pneumonia	56	...	26
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	..	...	...
Poliomyelitis	2	1	1
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...	..
Erysipelas	9	1	...
Dysentery	13	..	...
Malaria ... ..	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	1	...
Chickenpox	14	1	...

* Calendar Year ending December 31st. Reference is to Hospital of the Bedford Joint Hospital Board or other Isolation Hospitals. The figures given are the true figures after making allowance for revision of diagnosis.
† In the 52 weeks ending December 31st, 1938.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease of which information was received otherwise than by notification.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Information received from Head Teachers.	Information received from Health Visitors.		Total.	Total Deaths Registered.
		Under 5 years.	Over 5 years.		
Measles	175	19	18	212	...
Whooping Cough ..	124	64	12	200	4
Mumps	60	...	...	60	...
German Measles ...	8	...	...	8	...
Chicken Pox	35	...	1	36	...

In comment on the table just given it may be said that chickenpox ceased to be notified from 19th March, 1938. The Council decided to take action to remove chickenpox from the list of notifiable diseases, since its notification seemed to serve no useful purpose. The disease is therefore included under the first table on page 78 and in the table on page 79 for the period of the year during which chickenpox was notifiable.

(b) Smallpox.

No cases of smallpox were notified during the year.

(c) Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases notified in the 52 weeks period ending 31st December, 1938, after allowing for revision of diagnosis was 36. The case rate per thousand was 0.79, which may be compared with the case rate of England and Wales of 2.41.

The number showed a considerable reduction on that of the previous year, when the number was 87 and the case rate per thousand 1.92. The disease was of the usual mild type now prevalent. No deaths were registered as due to this disease.

The following table shows the incidence in the different Wards of the Borough :—

Scarlet Fever, Incidence in Wards.

Ward.	No. of cases.				Rate per thousand.			
	Including cases occurring in institutions.		Omitting cases occurring in institutions.		Including cases occurring in institutions.		Omitting cases occurring in institutions.	
Castle	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Cauldwell	...	14	...	7	...	1.87	...	0.94
De Parys	...	9	...	9	...	1.43	...	1.43
Harpur	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Kingsbrook	...	6	...	5	...	0.89	...	0.75
Newnham	...	3	...	3	...	0.41	...	0.41
Queen's Park	...	4	...	4	...	0.69	...	0.69
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		36		28		0.79		0.60
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

The highest rate occurred in Cauldwell and de Parys Wards.

The following table shows the incidence of cases and deaths for the last ten years :—

Scarlet Fever during last ten years.

Year.		Cases.		Deaths.		Case rate per thousand
1929	...	119	...	2	...	2.89
1930	...	58	...	—	...	1.43
1931	...	46	...	—	...	1.12
1932	...	130	...	3	...	3.16
1933	...	137	...	—	...	3.36
*1934	...	115	...	—	...	2.69
1935	...	114	...	2	...	2.63
1936	...	169	...	—	...	3.78
1937	...	87	...	1	...	1.92
1938	...	36	...	—	...	0.79
Average case rate (1929-1938)						2.38

* Borough extended on April 1st, 1934.

The numbers during successive quarters of the year were 4, 13, 10 and 9.

The number of cases which occurred among the elementary school population was 15. There was no specially high prevalence in any school or class.

(d) Diphtheria.

The number of cases of diphtheria noted (in the 52 weeks period ending 31st December, 1938) after allowing for revision of diagnosis was 35.

The case rate per thousand was 0.76, which may be compared with the case rate of 1.58 for England and Wales generally.

The number of cases may be compared with 69 in 1937, and 199 in 1936, corresponding to rates of 1.52 and 4.46 respectively. Two patients died of this disease, one from naso-pharyngeal and one from laryngeal diphtheria. The death rate was therefore 0.04 per thousand, which may be compared with 0.07, the rate for England and Wales. The fatality rate per 100 cases notified was 5.71. In dealing with such small numbers these rates have, of course, little significance. Generally the disease was of a mild type.

The following table shows the incidence of the cases in the different wards of the Borough :—

Diphtheria, Incidence in Wards.

Ward.	No. of cases.				Rate per thousand.			
	Including cases occurring in institutions.		Omitting cases occurring in institutions.		Including cases occurring in institutions.		Omitting cases occurring in institutions.	
Castle ...	1	...	1	...	0.16	...	0.16	
Cauldwell ...	12	...	5	...	1.61	...	0.67	
De Parys ...	3	...	3	...	0.48	...	0.48	
Harpur ...	2	...	2	...	0.34	...	0.34	
Kingsbrook ...	7	...	7	...	1.04	...	1.04	
Newnham ...	3	...	3	...	0.41	...	0.41	
Queens Park	7	...	7	...	1.20	...	1.20	
	—		—		—		—	
	35		28		0.76		0.61	
	—		—		—		—	

Cauldwell, Kingsbrook and Queens Park Wards showed the highest rates.

The following table shows the incidence of cases notified and deaths which have occurred during the last ten years :—

Diphtheria during last ten years.

Year.	Cases.		Deaths.		Case rate per thousand.	
1929 ...	16	...	1	...	0.39	
1930 ...	13	...	1	...	0.34	
1931 ...	1	...	—	...	0.02	
1932 ...	4	...	—	...	0.12	
1933 ...	3	...	—	...	0.07	
*1934 ...	7	...	1	...	0.16	
1935 ...	43	...	2	...	0.99	
1936 ...	199	...	11	...	4.46	
1937 ...	69	...	2	...	1.52	
1938 ...	35	...	2	...	0.76	
Average case rate (1929-1938)					...	0.88

* Borough extended on April 1st, 1934.

The number of cases which occurred during successive quarters of the year were as follows : 8, 14, 5 and 8.

The occurrence of a small outbreak in one of the classes at Queens Park Infants' School may be mentioned. In all 6 cases occurred in this class. The date of the first notification was October 4th, and the last October 16th. The cases generally were very mild. As measures of prevention the class was visited by the Medical Officer

of Health and the Health Visitor. Children absent from school without definite causes were visited by the Health Visitors; where there was any doubt as to the condition the parent was advised to call in a doctor, and the family doctor was informed of the condition in the school. A few cases with suspicious symptoms were swabbed in school. Of these, one with a slight membrane on the throat gave a swab positive for diphtheria bacilli, and she was in consequence removed to the Isolation Hospital.

A small outbreak affecting the inmates of the County Hospital occurred in the spring. In all 1 patient and 4 members of the nursing and domestic staff were affected. The first notification occurred on April 12th and the last on June 12th. The cases generally were mild. On the occurrence of this outbreak artificial immunisation of the nursing and domestic staff was undertaken by the physician in charge.

Artificial immunisation is referred to in a later section of the report on pages 87 and 88.

Diphtheria antitoxin is given free to general practitioners for patients who are not in a position to pay for this. It is kept at the Public Health Department, and also at the Police Station where it is available for use after office hours.

(e) Enteric Fever.

One case of paratyphoid B. was notified from the Public Assistance Institution, where he had been removed for treatment. It was not possible to discover the origin of the disease. The man lived in Bedford, but was employed at a large works outside.

(f) Dysentery.

In January an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred which was traced to milk infected with this bacillus supplied from a dairy in the Borough. In all 96 persons, among an estimated number of 224, distributed in 59 households which received the milk in question, were found on house-to-house enquiry to have been affected with symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting which came on within 12 to 24 hours of the consumption of milk, and which lasted for from 12 to 36 hours. The Sonne Dysentery bacillus was recovered from the faeces of some of the affected persons, and from a sample of the milk in question. Such a discovery of the bacillus in milk had not been reported before the present outbreak. The conditions at the farm were investigated by the Medical Officer of Health of the Bedford Rural District and by the County Medical Officer. The absence of any infection among persons supplied direct from the farm in the country seemed to indicate that the milk had become infected in Bedford. It was not,

however, possible to trace the source of infection, for though the retailer was found to be harbouring Sonne bacilli, yet there is every reason to suppose that he was himself infected by the milk, rather than that he caused the infection.

In order to prevent the further spread of infection, when it became clear from the bacterial report that the milk was still liable to cause infection, the supply was stopped for about 12 hours to enable an improvised pasteurisation plant to be installed at the dairy, when the supply was again permitted. The retailer, the only one of those handling the milk who were found to harbour the bacillus, was on this discovery stopped from handling milk till he became free. When Sonne bacilli were no longer to be recovered from the milk, and reports from the Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District indicated that one or two desirable improvements had been effected at the farm, the supply of milk without preliminary pasteurisation was again permitted.

Since only a few of the patients came under the care of a doctor the great majority remained unnotified, only 12 notifications being received. One additional case was notified in the year. This had no connection with the outbreak in question, and the origin was not traced.

(g) Food Poisoning.

(i) DUE TO MILK.

Information was received in June from the medical practitioner in charge that a large proportion of the inmates of a training college for young women had been affected with symptoms of vomiting, accompanied in a small proportion of cases with diarrhoea. Since the inmates of the institution are distributed in different houses, which have common milk supply but whose food is otherwise different, there seemed no doubt that the symptoms arose from the consumption of milk. Enquiry among the persons supplied by the milk retailer who supplied the bulk of the milk to the institution indicated that some of his customers had been affected. Enquiries designed to discover whether the milk had become infected in his dairy or whether the supply of one of the wholesalers supplying him had been infected led to no conclusive result. Examination of the faeces of some of the infected persons in the laboratory of the Ministry of Health gave negative results, as did also an examination of the milk. It was suggested by medical officers of the Ministry of Health that the outbreak might have been due to a staphylococcus toxin contained in the milk.

Since by the time that information of the outbreak was received there was no evidence that milk was continuing to cause symptoms, no action was taken to stop the supply.

(ii) DUE TO CHOCOLATE DATES.

Some cases of diarrhoea were traced to the consumption of chocolate dates from a shop in the town. The symptoms, which came on within about half an hour of eating the chocolates, were abdominal pain and diarrhoea, with motions every half an hour, lasting about 24 hours. In all, it was possible to trace 6 persons who had been so affected. The sale of the chocolates in question, which consisted of a 7 lb. box, was stopped. It was not, however, possible in spite of careful enquiry, to trace the ultimate source of these chocolate dates. Bacteriological and chemical examination in the laboratory of the Ministry of Health failed to reveal any cause for the effect produced by the chocolates.

(h) Pneumonia.

56 cases were notified as compared with 91 in 1937. 26 deaths were registered as due to this disease.

(i) Measles.

Measles was prevalent during the year, and information was received of 212 cases.

In previous epidemics an attempt was made by the Health Visitors to visit most cases of measles in the hope of giving preventive advice at an early stage. In view, however, of the difficulty of obtaining really early information of the occurrence of cases of measles, even with the co-operation of the Head Teachers of Schools, of the consumption of time in visiting other cases in the attempt to do so, and of the fact that most parents call in their doctor on the onset of symptoms, it was felt after a trial which had lasted over many years that any results obtained were not in any way commensurate with the time and labour involved. The visiting of such cases has therefore been given up except in special cases.

(j) Whooping Cough.

Information was received of 200 cases. The disease was more prevalent than in 1937, when 33 cases were reported.

(k) Influenza.

Eight deaths were registered as due to influenza, in contrast to 34 in 1937.

(l) Puerperal Pyrexia.

Fifteen cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified. For reasons stated in previous reports dependent on the large number of institutional births in Bedford the proportion of notifications of puerperal pyrexia may be expected to be higher in Bedford than in the country as a whole without implying that the incidence of the disease is itself greater.

Steps are taken so far as possible to cancel notifications relating to patients removed from outside the area to a borough institution for treatment.

The rate for puerperal pyrexia was 22.26 per thousand total births, which may be compared with 14.42, the figure for England and Wales.

The following table gives particulars relating to puerperal pyrexia.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Total Cases.	Confinement in Borough.			Confinement outside Borough but notification in outside district not secured.	Borough residents notified from London institutions in accordance with law relating to London Institutions.
	In Public Institution or Hospital.	Nursing Home or Girls' Home.	Private Houses.		
15	6	2	5	2	...

(m) Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The following table shows the number of cases and the result of treatment.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

CASES.			Vision un-impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	Home.	Hospital.				
4	3	1	4	...	...	...

Many of the cases notified now are very mild, and one obtains the impression that ophthalmia neonatorum is now a very mild condition. This impression is no doubt partly due to the efficiency of modern preventive treatment, and partly to the fact that on account of the efficiency of present-day supervision cases are now notified early and curative treatment carried out without delay.

(n) Other Infectious Diseases.

Two cases of *cerebro-spinal fever* in which the diagnosis was confirmed bacteriologically were notified. One patient, a woman aged 60, was a Borough resident; the other, a child aged six months, a resident in Biggleswade, was notified from the County Hospital where she had been sent for treatment. Both patients died, one death only, of course, being attributable to the Borough.

Two cases of *poliomyelitis* were notified. Of these, one a child aged two who was also notified from the County Hospital was not

resident in the Borough. The other patient, a girl aged fourteen, was a Borough resident. She died within a few days of notification.

Information was received of one case of *undulant fever* in a man aged 29, in which the diagnosis was confirmed by serological tests. In this case the infection probably occurred outside the Borough.

In connection with an outbreak of influenza, *nervous symptoms* of an *encephalitic* nature occurred in two children in an institution for children. The symptoms were obscure, but your Medical Officer, who saw the patients, in consultation with the private practitioner in charge did not advise their formal notification as encephalitis.

(o) Schick Tests and Artificial Immunisation.

The same policy was pursued as in the previous year of making the offer of immunisation of their children to parents of all children attaining the age of one year, of children entering schools at the age of five from the Borough, and of children entering schools at a later age from other areas. The scheme is available, if desired, of course, also to children in other categories, or other persons.

The following tables show the number and percentages of children immunised under the scheme :—

Treatment was, as before, carried out both at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in Barford Avenue and at the School Clinic, 30, Bromham Road. The course consisted of three injections at intervals of a fortnight of 1 cc., 1.5 cc., and 1.5 cc. respectively of toxoid-antitoxin floccules.

Neither anterior nor posterior Schick testing is carried out apart from exceptional cases.

As explained in the previous Report, conditions which are more or less correctly called diphtheria may still occur in children notwithstanding the fact that they have been immunised.

Five cases of diphtheria occurred among immunised patients. The following table shows the number of cases occurring among immunised and non-immunised patients under the age of 15, together with the rate per thousand. The populations on which the rates are calculated are to some extent an estimate. The rate for the previous year is also given.

	Number of cases of diphtheria in 1938 in children under 15.	Population at risk 1938.	Rate 1938.	Rate 1937.
Immunised ...	5	2100	2.4	2.9
Non-immunised ...	19	5250	3.6	8.7

All the five cases occurring among immunised children were of mild or very mild faucial type.

2.—Tuberculosis.

The following table indicates the number of new cases and deaths from this disease during the year under review, and the number of patients admitted to hospital.

Tuberculosis—Cases, Deaths and Admissions to Hospital.

				Total New Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
(a) Respiratory—						
Males	...	...	...	14	18	13
Females	...	...	..	19	15	10
Totals ...				33	33	23
(b) Non-Respiratory—						
Males	...	...	...	6	4	2
Females	...	...	...	7	2	3
Totals ...				13	6	5

The following table indicates the age distribution of the cases and deaths.

Age Distribution of Cases and Deaths.

Age Periods.				New Cases.				Deaths.			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
1	...	...	...	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1
5	...	...	...	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1
10	...	...	...	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	—
20	...	...	...	1	5	—	—	1	1	—	—
25	...	...	...	5	5	—	—	3	4	—	—
35	...	...	...	3	2	1	—	4	1	—	—
45	...	...	...	3	4	—	—	3	1	—	—
55	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	...			—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals				14	19	6	7	13	10	2	3

It will be seen from the foregoing table that 28 deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis, of which 23 were respiratory and 5 non-respiratory. The figures correspond to a death rate of 0.61 per thousand for all forms, 0.50 for respiratory and 0.11 for non-respiratory.

The following table shows the death rates in Bedford for the last 10 years :—

Tuberculosis Death Rates during ten years.

Date.	All Forms.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Number.	Rate per thousand.	Number.	Rate per thousand.	Number.	Rate per thousand.
1929	38	0.92	30	0.72	8	0.19
1930	23	0.56	20	0.49	3	0.07
1931	30	0.73	29	0.70	1	0.02
1932	31	0.75	25	0.61	6	0.15
1933	23	0.56	19	0.47	4	0.10
1934	26	0.61	19	0.44	7	0.17
1935	30	0.69	26	0.60	4	0.09
1936	37	0.83	34	0.78	3	0.06
1937	19	0.42	14	0.31	5	0.11
1938	28	0.61	23	0.50	5	0.11
Average Rates		0.67		0.56		0.11

The following table shows the number of deaths and rates per thousand in the different wards.

Deaths from Tuberculosis in Wards.

Ward.	All Forms.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Number of deaths.	Rate.	Number of deaths.	Rate.	Number of Deaths.	Rate.
Castle	... 4	0.63	3	0.47	1	0.16
Cauldwell	... 5	0.67	4	0.54	1	0.13
De Parys	... 1	0.16	1	0.16	—	—
Harpur	... 1	0.17	1	0.17	—	—
Kingsbrook	... 9	1.34	6	0.89	3	0.45
Newnham	... 6	0.83	6	0.83	—	—
Queen's Park	... 2	0.34	2	0.34	—	—
	28	0.61	23	0.50	5	0.11

The causes of deaths of the five cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were as follows :

- 3 of tuberculous meningitis;
- 1 of tuberculous peritonitis; and
- 1 of miliary tuberculosis and tubercular hip.

The total number of non-notified deaths was 5, giving a ratio of non-notified to previously notified deaths of 21.7 per cent.

In cases of deaths not previously notified a communication is addressed to the certifying doctor, and the usual reply is that the

patient had previously been under the care of another doctor and the certifying doctor assumed that the case had already been notified.

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year.

			Male.		Female.		Total.
Respiratory	...	...	69	...	83	...	152
Non-respiratory	...	...	37	...	42	...	79
			—		—		—
	Total	...	106		125		231
			—		—		—

The register is kept up-to-date, so far as possible, by removal of those patients who die or leave the district, or in whose cases reports of cure are received from the County Tuberculosis Officer.

The following table shows the Institutions to which patients were removed for treatment :—

Tuberculosis, Institutional Treatment.

Institution.		Number of cases removed.	Type of disease.	Remarks.
Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium	...	17	Respiratory	
St. Peter's Hospital	...	8	Respiratory	One admitted twice. Five transferred to Mogerhanger.
„ „		4	Non-respiratory	One transferred to Mogerhanger.
Bedford County Hospital		1	Respiratory	Transferred to St. Peter's Hospital.
Creton Sanatorium	...	1	Non-respiratory	
Preston Hall	...	1	Respiratory	
Royal National Hospital, Ventnor	...	1	Respiratory	
Eversfield Chest Hospital		1	Respiratory	
King Edward VII Sana- torium, Midhurst	...	1	Respiratory	
Brompton Hospital	...	1	Respiratory	
Victoria Homes, Margate		1	Non-respiratory	

All patients notified as suffering from tuberculosis are visited by the Health Visitor, unless for any reason such visits are undesirable. Visits are paid on notification and subsequently in accordance with the amount of supervision required.

The following table shows the number of visits paid :—

First visits	...	...	...	...	43
Systematic re-visits	...	...	...	...	93
Re-visits for special purposes	...	...	...	...	19
Useless calls (<i>i.e.</i> patients not at home)	...	...	...	...	19
					—
	Total	...	...	...	174
					—

Twenty-four rooms were disinfected after the death or removal of patients.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relates to prohibition of persons suffering from tuberculosis from engaging in the handling of milk, nor under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which both relate to the compulsory removal to hospital of patients in an infectious state and liable to be a source of danger to others.

3.—Cancer.

The following table shows the prevalence of cancer deaths during the last ten years.

Cancer Deaths during last 10 years.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	England & Wales.	
				Rate per 1000.	Rate per 1000.
1929	30	26	56	1.35	1.43
1930	28	43	71	1.75	1.45
1931	41	33	74	1.80	1.48
1932	26	44	70	1.70	1.51
1933	27	57	84	2.09	1.52
1934	30	47	77	1.80	1.56
1935	24	51	75	1.73	1.58
1936	38	43	81	1.81	1.62
1937	36	43	79	1.75	1.63
1938	36	42	78	1.70	1.66
Average					
Rates				—	—
1929-1938				1.75	1.54
				—	—

The table shows the increase from year to year which has been noted in past years. Since the population in Bedford is on the average older than that in the country as a whole, the death rate for cancer may be expected to be higher.

4.—Isolation Hospitals.

(a) Oakley Isolation Hospital.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are treated at the Oakley Isolation Hospital of the Bedford Joint Hospital Board. The following tables show the number of patients with scarlet fever and diphtheria admitted and discharged during the year, the provisional diagnosis with which they were admitted being in all cases given.

Scarlet Fever.

No. of scarlet fever cases remaining in Hospital on	
December 31st, 1937	6
No. admitted during the year	34
No. died in hospital during same period	—
No. discharged during same period	35
No. remaining in hospital on December 31st, 1938	5

Diphtheria.

No. of diphtheria cases remaining in Hospital on	
December 31st, 1937	5
No. admitted during the year	38†
No. died in hospital during same period	2
No. discharged during same period	40
No. remaining in hospital on December 31st, 1938	1

† Includes cases subsequently revised to Diphtheria (Bacteriological) 1, Tonsillitis 1, Pharyngitis 1, Laryngitis and Broncho-pneumonia 1, and Measles 1.

The following table shows the number of cases of other diseases admitted and discharged during the year.

Other Diseases, Oakley Hospital.

Disease.	Number of cases.	Average stay (days.)	Remarks.
Diphtheria Carriers	2	42.5	Admitted as such. In hospital as suffering from diphtheria in 1937. Readmitted as carriers 3/1/38.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	19	Admitted as such.
No disease (mother of baby admitted with Ophthalmia Neonatorum)	1	19	
Chickenpox	1	5	Admitted as such.
Erysipelas	1	25	Admitted as such.
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	2	Admitted as such.
Measles	2	18	Admitted as such. Conditions at home not suitable.

(b) Other Hospitals.

It was necessary, on account of alterations at Oakley Isolation Hospital and to occurrence of measles in the diphtheria wards in October, to send the following cases to other Hospitals.

Disease.	No. of cases.	Hospital.	Duration of stay.
Diphtheria	1	Steppingley	39
Poliomyelitis	1	Luton	1
(Later transferred to L.C.C. hospital)			

(c) Smallpox.

No patients suffering from this disease were admitted to hospital during the year.

CONCLUSION.

“Nineteenth-century medicine . . . is . . . a phenomenon of age. It prolongs each life whether this is desirable or not. It prolongs even death. It replaces the number of children by the number of greybeards. It promotes the world outlook of *panem et circenses* by estimating the value of life by the number of its days, not by their usefulness. It prevents the natural process of selection and thereby accentuates the decay of the race.” *

In writing or in reading a public health report, attention is generally concentrated on the extent to which disease has been prevented and life has been prolonged, or at least the extent to which such claims may be made, by modern medicine in its public health aspect; and the view held that these results represent real and permanent gains in the direction of human progress. It is often not realised that apparent progress on a short view may imply more permanent decline if a longer view is taken, and it is this latter aspect which is well expressed in the quotation just given. The fact of course remains that we live in the twentieth century and that our ways must be its ways whithersoever they lead. Yet, even on the narrower and shorter view, the writer confesses that he sometimes asks himself whether public health effort has not gone altogether too far in the preservation of the hopelessly unfit and the saving of entirely useless lives. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century public health was mainly concerned with providing in a general way healthy environment for all individuals, which they were to some extent free to benefit by so far as they would or could by their own efforts. During the present century on the other hand attempts have been made to an increasing extent to thrust a healthy environment and healthy modes of living on those who would by themselves be unable to achieve this by their own exertions. Public health reports in recent years seem to be concerned more and more, not so much with communal health in its broad aspects, as with various aspects of individual ill-health and with various cures of incurable diseases. Yet in practice even these latest developments of public health are probably inevitable, and therefore any comment on them may well be relegated to a place where they will have no practical effect on action, namely the conclusion of a public health report.

* Spengler, *The Hour of Decision*.

POSTSCRIPT.

16th September, 1939.

This Report has been delayed by the occurrence of the national emergency. Had it not already been in the press before the emergency, it would naturally have been presented in abbreviated form.

In the circumstances it is scarcely possible to avoid a few words of postscript. For some weeks or months before the emergency a large amount of the time of many members of the staff was taken up with the work of Air Raid Precautions and Civil Defence. Since that time almost the whole time of nearly all members of the staff has been directed to these objects. All the staff have given long hours to hard, dull, and uninspiring work.

The work which the writer himself has carried out has been done, he hopes, as well as circumstances have permitted, but has been done without enthusiasm and without hope. He sees two alternative ends to the present struggle, one, defeat, an alternative which requires no comment, the other victory, in which the victors will again show themselves incapable of acting on that principle which alone in the present age can govern the relations of nations and individuals, the principle enunciated by Thrasymachus in Plato's *Republic*, that "justice is the interest of the stronger," or in the more familiar phrase: "Might is right." So that, as before, victory will be useless and fruitless.

Not only is the future in general without hope, but the actual present circumstances of the work are disheartening. In accordance with the shredded and tattered remains of the voluntary system, in many cases work beyond their share falls to the willing because they are willing, while in other cases schemes of work are utterly disorganised by the repudiation in war-time of obligations undertaken in peace-time. In accordance with the sacred principles of democracy, in which everyone does as he likes, duties which should fall equally upon all can be escaped by those who decline to undertake them or make themselves a nuisance, in spite of, or perhaps because of, legal enactments of "compulsory powers," with all the paraphernalia of statutory tribunals and such like.

Not only, therefore, is there the realisation that the cause in which one is engaged is, if not now, at least ultimately, destined to be the conquered cause, but there is the even sadder reflection that it deserves to be conquered.



BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1938.

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Report of Senior Sanitary Inspector.

F. C. HAYNES, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

I. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following Report shows the general and detailed nature of the duties carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors of the Department during the year 1938.

This Report includes particulars with regard to Sanitary Inspections of the Area : in conjunction with details with regard to matters referred to in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health relating to Sanitary Circumstances of the Area (Section III.), Housing (Section IV.) and Inspection and Supervision of Food (Section V.).

1.—Summary of General Inspections, and Administrative Duties.

Housing.

No. of Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	996
„ Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	671
„ Houses found to be totally unfit for human habitation	21
„ Premises inspected under the Public Health Acts ...	437
„ Premises at which nuisances or defects were discovered	269
„ Re-visits to houses and premises under Housing and Public Health Acts	11219
„ Houses remedied under Housing Acts	698
„ Premises where nuisances remedied under Public Health Acts	269

Overcrowding.

No. of visits	177
„ Houses found to be overcrowded	28
„ Houses where overcrowding abated	78
„ Applications for permitted number dealt with ...	300

Drainage.

No. of House drains tested on payment of fee	...	...	9
„ House drains where defects found	...	...	9
„ Nursing Home drains tested	...	...	2
„ „ „ „ where defects found	...	...	1
„ Drains tested on complaint, or inspected during alterations	...	...	50
„ „ where defects found	...	...	50
„ School and Boarding House drains tested	...	...	56
„ „ „ „ „ where defects found	...	...	11
„ Drains examined after notification of Infectious Disease	...	...	61
„ Re-visits for inspection during repairs and reconstruction	...	...	1873
„ Re-tests made to drains	...	...	314

Infectious Diseases.

No. of Visits made	...	...	311
„ Patients removed to Isolation Hospitals	...	...	83

Cowsheds and Dairies.

No. of Visits made to Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	530
---	-----	-----

Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops.

No. of Visits made to Slaughterhouses	...	1632
„ „ Meat Shops and Vehicles	...	749

Other Food Premises.

No. of Visits to Fish Shops and Vehicles	...	353
„ „ Fruit Shops and Vehicles	...	356
„ „ Grocery and Provision Shops and Vehicles	...	199
„ „ Restaurant Kitchens and Refreshment Houses	...	34
„ „ Ice Cream Premises	...	68
„ „ Cold Stores	...	6
„ „ Bakehouses	...	95

Markets and Stalls.

No. of Visits to Meat Stalls	...	203
„ „ Fish Stalls	...	162
„ „ Fruit Stalls	...	332
„ „ Grocery Stalls	...	34
„ „ Cattle Market	...	8
„ „ Poultry and Produce Market	...	8

Factories, including Bakehouses.

No. of Visits to Factories with mechanical power, including							
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...			279
„ „ Factories without mechanical power, including							
Bakehouses	...	...	...				188
„ „ Other Premises under the Act	...	...					5
„ „ Outworkers' Premises	...	...	...				44

Shops Act.

No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
„ Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	155

Offices.

No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	353
„ Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	536

Smoke Abatement.

No. of Observations made	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Interviews with Managers and Stokers, etc.						...	4

Offensive Trades.

No. of Visits of inspections to fish-frying premises and							
vehicles	...	...	...	...	...		103
„ „ to Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...		11

Common Lodging Houses.

No. of Visits made	22
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Houses Let in Lodgings.

No. of Visits made	154
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Animals (Premises).

No. of Visits made	40
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, &c.

No. of Visits made	128
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Places of Public Entertainment.

No. of Visits made	275
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Public Houses and Hotels.

No. of Visits made	797
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Merchandise Marks Act.

No. of Visits made to shops, stalls, and vehicles					953
---	-----	-----	--	--	--	--	-----

Rats and Mice Destruction Acts.

No. of Visits made to infested premises				160
---	-----	-----	-----	--	--	--	-----

Sundry Nuisances.

No. of Visits made with reference to complaints or nuisances discovered	35
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Miscellaneous Visits.

No. of Visits made (unclassified)	936
-----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Food and Drugs Sampling.

No. of Samples submitted to the Public Analyst: formal						
104, informal 52	...	...	...	...	...	156
„ Samples reported upon as being adulterated	...					18
„ Informal samples procured and examined in the Laboratory of the Public Health Department	...					375
No. found to be not of requisite standard	...	...	...			32
No. of Samples of Graded Milk submitted for examination						194
„ Samples of Graded Milk not of requisite standard						24
„ Samples for bacteriological examination	...	...				87
„ Samples for tuberculosis examination	...	...				18
„ Samples for phosphatase examination	...	...				139

General Administration.

No. of Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, Tenants, etc.—						
At office	...	...	...	...	...	2183
On site	...	...	...	...	...	9306
„ Informal notices served under Housing Act	...					671
„ „ „ „ „ Public Health Acts						342
„ „ „ „ „ Shops Acts	...					7
„ „ „ „ „ Factories Act	...					152
„ Informal notices served under various Byelaws, Orders and Regulations	...	...	...			39
Total No. of Informal notices served	...	...	...			1211
„ Statutory Notices served—						
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	6
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Legal Proceedings taken under—						
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	—
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other Statutes, Orders or Regulations	...	...				—

2.—Administration.**(a) Housing Act, 1936.**

A tabulated list of houses in certain streets in various parts of the Borough was prepared in which 1,269 houses were scheduled for inspection during the year, but owing to special circumstances it was only found possible to complete inspection in respect of 975 houses.

The majority of the houses so scheduled and inspected were built upwards of 40 years ago, and at many, works of repair were found to be required. Some indication of the works of improvement carried out may be seen in the tables on pages

Systematic "house to house" inspections were carried out under the above programme, and reports submitted to the Public Health and Housing Committee for confirmation of action taken under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1932.

This branch of the work is regarded as one of the primary activities of the Department, as it is deemed of paramount importance that all practical steps be taken to ensure that houses are maintained in a reasonable state for habitation.

The following table shows the streets inspected under the above mentioned Regulations.

Houses capable of Repair at a Reasonable Cost.

Name of Street.				Defective.	In order.			Total.
Allhallows Lane	...	...	...	2	...	—	...	2
Amphill Road	...	...	...	35	...	32	...	67
Balsall Street East	...	...	...	8	...	—	...	8
Balsall Street West	...	...	...	8	...	—	...	8
Battison Street	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Brace Street	...	...	...	11	...	1	...	12
Bunyan Road	...	...	...	2	...	—	...	2
Cardington Road	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Castle Road	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Chandos Street	...	...	...	5	...	—	...	5
Church's Square	...	...	...	8	...	—	...	8
Churchville Road	...	...	...	12	...	15	...	27
College Road	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Commercial Road	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Denmark Street	...	...	...	65	...	29	...	94
Derby Street	...	...	...	22	...	1	...	23
Dudley Street	...	...	...	86	...	43	...	129
George Street	...	...	...	82	...	36	...	118
Gladstone Street	...	...	...	32	...	43	...	75
Greenhill Street	...	...	...	36	...	—	...	36
Grosvenor Street	...	...	...	25	...	17	...	42
Grove (The)	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Gwyn Street	...	...	...	9	...	—	...	9
Hardwick Road	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Hartington Street	...	...	...	58	...	11	...	69
Holme Street	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Houghton Road	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Hurst Grove	...	...	...	3	...	—	...	3
Kempston Road	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Maryville Road	...	...	...	12	...	9	...	21
Pembroke Street	...	...	...	54	...	25	...	79
Princes Street	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Priory Street	...	...	...	5	...	—	...	5
Queen Street	...	...	...	2	...	—	...	2
Southville Road	...	...	...	17	...	14	...	31
Stanley Street	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Trevor Street	...	...	...	9	...	—	...	9
Wellington Street	...	...	...	3	...	—	...	3
Western Street	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
York Street	...	...	...	47	...	28	...	75
				671	304			975

In accordance with instructions, Returns showing progress of the work were duly submitted every quarter to the Ministry of Health.

(b) Public Health Act, 1936.

The administrative duties under these Acts obtained principally in the course of investigation, of complaints and action taken in connection with the abatement of sundry nuisances, drainage work conversion of pail closets, systematic inspection of Public Houses, Places of Public Entertainment, Office Premises, Moveable Dwellings, and Accommodation for Storage of Refuse.

(c) Various Acts, Byelaws, Orders and Regulations.

The work of supervision of Shops, Factories, Slaughterhouses, Houses let in Lodgings, Common Lodging Houses, Offensive Trade Premises, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops, etc., is carried out as a matter of systematic routine, and the administration duties involved consist in securing compliance with the provisions governing these classes of premises.

The following table gives a summary of the Notices served to secure compliance with the provisions of the various Statutes, Byelaws, Orders and Regulations, together with the result of such action.

Statute. 1	Notices served.		Notices out-standing, 1937. 4	Notices complied with. 5	Notices still out-standing. 6
	Informal. 2	Statutory. 3			
Housing Acts ...	†671	6	373	698	346
Public Health Acts ...	342	—	—	342	—
Shops Act	7	—	16	23	—
Factories Act ..	152	—	6	22	136
Various Bye-laws, Orders and Regulations	39	—	12	46	5
Totals	†1211	6	407	1131	487

† Includes 6 informal notices subsequently cancelled by Statutory Notices.

It may be noted that one is generally successful in securing compliance with requirements by virtue of informal action, and in only 6 instances was it necessary to serve Statutory Notices.

3.—Table showing detailed nature of work carried out as a Result of Inspections.

(a) Dwelling Houses.

Dwelling Houses—General Improvements.

No. of Defective roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	217
„ Defective chimney heads repaired or renewed	...	...	78
„ Eavesgutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	...	...	191
„ Damp walls remedied	...	...	360
„ Defective walls, brickwork and pointing made sound	...	...	253
„ Rooms cleansed and re-decorated	...	...	1692
„ Defective floors repaired or renewed	...	...	460
„ Defective windows repaired or renewed	...	...	575
„ New windows fixed to provide additional light	...	...	26
„ Defective firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	362
„ Defective doors repaired or renewed	...	...	69
„ New sills provided or repaired to windows and doors	...	...	159
„ Defective stair treads repaired or renewed	...	...	39
„ Handrails provided to stairs	...	...	366
„ Coppers provided	...	...	17
„ Defective coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	145
„ Rooms provided with permanent ventilation	...	...	412
„ Food cupboards provided	...	...	20
„ Defective food cupboards made sound	...	...	211
„ Glazed sinks provided in lieu of defective stone sinks	...	...	97
„ Sinks and waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	162
„ Sinks and waste pipes provided (added areas)	...	...	14
„ Walls cemented or tiled at back of sinks	...	...	161
„ Rooms partitioned off from staircase	...	...	10
„ Houses provided with internal water supply (added areas)	...	...	27
No. of Rent books with absence of owner's name and address	...	...	2
„ Rent books with absence of Medical Officer of Health's name and address	...	...	4
„ Rent books with absence of permitted number	...	...	16

Water Closets.

No. of Premises where additional W.C. provided	...	...	22
„ Premises where defective W.C. repaired or rebuilt	...	...	105
„ Premises where pedestal W.C. provided in lieu of pail closet	...	...	136
„ W.C.'s removed from barn and fitted in separate compartments	...	...	39
„ New W.C.'s built	...	...	22
„ Pedestal pans provided in lieu of boxed-in pans	...	...	281
„ Lift-up seats provided in lieu of boxed-in seats	...	...	178

No. of Defective W.C. seats repaired	...	...	...	23
„ Water supply provided	...	...	...	180
„ Defective cisterns or fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	82
„ Premises where W.C. compartments cleansed	...	...	...	191
„ Premises where ventilation and lighting provided	...	...	...	64
„ Floors repaired	...	...	...	186

Outhouses.

No. of Defective Outhouses repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	81
„ Defective spoutings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	32
„ Defective floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	35
„ Outhouses cleansed	...	...	...	35
„ Outhouses demolished	...	...	...	8
„ New Outhouses erected	...	...	...	8

Drainage.

No. of Blocked drains cleared and flushed	...	...	...	27
„ Defective drains repaired or partially reconstructed	...	...	...	148
„ Defective drains wholly relaid	...	...	...	36
„ Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	16
„ Intercepting or inspection chambers built	...	...	...	101
„ Intercepting or inspecting chambers repaired	...	...	...	35
„ New covers provided to inspection chambers	...	...	...	6
„ Fresh air inlets to intercepting traps provided or repaired	...	...	...	5
„ New soil and vent pipes fixed	...	...	...	58
„ Soil and vent pipes repaired	...	...	...	36
„ Rain water pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	...	6
„ New covers provided to gullies	...	...	...	4
„ House drains connected to sewer	...	...	...	251
„ Cesspools dispensed with	...	...	...	115

Yards.

No. of Houses at which yards were paved	...	...	...	46
„ Houses at which yard paving was repaired or renewed	...	...	...	414
„ Passages levelled and gravelled	...	...	...	23
„ Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	199
„ Nuisances abated arising from accumulation of filth or keeping of animals	...	...	...	18
„ Boundary walls repaired or renewed	...	...	...	62

Infectious and Other Diseases.

No. of Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	156
„ Articles of bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected	...	...	...	14037
„ Rooms stripped and cleansed after infectious disease	...	...	...	6

Disinfestation.

No. of Rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	307
„ Articles of bedding, clothing, etc., steam disinfested	13	Lots				
„ Articles destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	4 Lots

(b) Other Premises.**Slaughterhouses.**

No. where Defective roofs and spouting remedied	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Defective walls or ceilings remedied	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Defective floors or yard paving remedied	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Other improvements carried out	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Blocked or defective drains remedied or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Defective lighting and ventilation remedied	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Regular periodic limewashing and general cleansing carried out	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	3

Cowsheds and Dairies.

No. of New dairies constructed or established	...	...	...	...	—
„ Existing dairies reconstructed	...	...	...	...	—
„ Existing dairies at which other improvements carried out	...	...	...	...	9
„ Dairies and cowsheds where limewashing and general cleansing carried out	...	...	...	...	36

Factories (including Bakehouses).

No. where Defective walls or ceilings remedied	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Defective floors remedied	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Other improvements carried out	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Defective lighting or ventilation remedied	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Sanitary accommodation requirements complied with—					
(a) Provided	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Repaired	...	...	...	...	6
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Regular periodic limewashing and general cleansing carried out	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ Register provided	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Water supply provided	...	...	...	...	1

Offensive Trades Premises.

No. where Limewashing and general cleansing carried out	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ Structural defects remedied	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	1

No. where	Yards repaved or repaired	...	...	...	1
„	„ Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	1
„	„ Additional ventilation provided	...	...	...	1
„	„ New sanitary bins provided	...	...	...	1
„	„ Modern fish frying ranges fixed	...	...	...	5
„	„ Sinks provided	...	...	...	1
„	„ Accumulation of refuse removed	...	...	...	1

Public Houses and Hotels.

No. where	flushing tanks provided to urinals	...	...	55
No. of	Urinals screened	...	...	15
„	Urinals paved	...	...	4
„	Urinals cleansed, etc.	...	...	34
„	Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	19
„	Pedestal pans fixed	...	...	33
„	W.C. compartments repaired, etc.	...	...	6
„	W.C. compartments cleansed	...	...	19
No. where	paving made sound	...	...	8
No. of	Sinks provided in bar	...	...	29
„	Waste pipes provided to sinks in bar	...	...	44
No. where	Water supply provided over sink in bar	...	...	28
No. of	Soil and vent pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	3
No. where	Lighting and ventilation provided to W.C.'s	...	...	8
„	„ Drainage repaired or renewed	...	...	10
No. of	Urinals built, together with sparge pipe	...	...	5

Refreshment Houses and Restaurant Kitchens.

No. where	Structural defects remedied	...	...	1
„	„ Other improvements carried out	...	...	4
„	„ Limewashing and general cleansing carried out	...	...	1
„	„ W.C.'s provided	...	...	2
„	„ Wash basins provided	...	...	3
„	„ Urinals provided	...	...	4

Common Lodging Houses.

No. where	Structural defects remedied	...	...	1
„	„ Other improvements carried out	...	...	1

Houses Let in Lodgings.

No. where	Structural defects remedied	...	...	7
„	„ Floors repaired	...	...	5
„	„ Additional ventilation provided	...	...	2
„	„ Additional artificial light provided	...	...	1
„	„ Yards repaved	...	...	2
„	„ Drains reconstructed or repaired, and inspection chambers built, and soil and vent pipes fixed	...	...	2

No. of W.C. pedestal pans fixed	...	...	...	...	8
„ Additional glazed sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	2
„ Water service supply pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	1
„ Defective sinks replaced with glazed sinks	...	...	...	...	6
„ Rooms and staircases and passages cleansed and re-decorated	...	...	...	...	22
„ Additional cookers provided	...	...	...	...	2
„ W.C. fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
„ Damp rooms remedied	...	...	...	...	4
„ Other improvements carried out	...	...	...	...	22

Animals (Premises).

No. where Structural defects remedied	...	...	...	—
„ „ Limewashing and general cleansing carried out	...	...	...	—

Smoke Abatement.

No. of Structural improvements	...	...	...	...	—
„ Smoke-preventing apparatus installed	...	...	...	...	—

Places of Public Entertainment.

No. where Improvements to sanitary accommodation effected	3
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Ice Cream Premises.

No. where Floors repaired	1
„ „ Additional windows provided	1
„ „ Additional ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Water supply laid on	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Pedestal pan fixed	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	1

Shops.

No. of W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ W.C. compartments repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	—
Suitable arrangements made for W.C. accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	—
No. of Pedestal pans provided in lieu of defective pans	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Lift-up seats provided to pans	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ W.C. compartments cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ W.C. compartments lighted or ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Suitable arrangements made for washing facilities	...	...	...	...	...	—
Heating provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	—

No. of Shops or stores cleansed and re-decorated ...	...	...	—
„ Defective floors repaired ...	...	...	—
„ Defective yard pavings repaired ...	...	...	1
Other improvements carried out ...	...	...	1

Offices.

No. of Rooms cleansed and re-decorated ...	...	...	36
„ Rooms provided with ventilation ...	...	...	5
„ W.C.'s provided ...	...	...	6
„ Rooms where heating installed ...	...	...	4
„ Urinals provided ...	...	...	2
„ Wash basins provided ...	...	...	10
„ Pedestal pans fixed in lieu of boxed-in pans ...	...	...	4
„ Soil and vent pipes fixed ...	...	...	2
„ Yards paved ...	...	...	2
„ W.C.'s cleansed ...	...	...	12
„ Inspection chambers built ...	...	...	2
No. where Arrangements made for lavatory accommodation			3
„ „ Water supply provided ...	...	...	1
„ „ Structural alterations carried out ...	...	...	9
No. of Other improvements carried out ...	...	...	11

4.—Rent Restriction Act, 1920-1938.

No application for a “Certificate” under the above-named Act was received during the year, but a number of persons, both tenants and landlords, were interviewed relative to permitted increase of rent.

The owner of a house made application to court for vacant possession on the ground that the house had deteriorated owing to acts of waste by either the neglect or default of the tenant.

The general conditions obtaining at the house in question have been known to this Department for a period of time, and evidence in court was given in support of the application, which resulted in the tenant eventually being evicted.

Since vacant possession was obtained the house has been put into a thorough state of repair.

5.—Inspection of Office Premises.

The work of inspection of Office Premises was proceeded with during the year, and all existing office premises were visited with the exception of “Government Buildings.”

It was found there was a total of 281 buildings, comprising 353 suites of offices, and in all 1,038 rooms.

Attention was given to the requirements with regard to provision of sanitary accommodation and washing facilities and provision of adequate ventilation, and conditions as to cleanliness.

Generally the conditions found were satisfactory, and very few offices situated in basements were found, but in a number of instances re-decoration of rooms and provision of additional sanitary conveniences so as to secure separate accommodation for the sexes and washing facilities were required, which matters were readily dealt with by the occupier on receipt of formal intimation.

For the purpose of defining as to overcrowding of rooms used as offices, a "standard" of 250 cubic feet per person was applied, and in only one instance was overcrowding based on this standard found to exist, which was subsequently abated.

The work carried out with regard to offices is shown in the table on page 110.

6.—Drains.

(a) Testing and Inspections.

(i) PRIVATE HOUSES.

There were 9 house drains tested and reported upon during the year at the request of owners on payment of a nominal fee, at which 9 drains were found to be defective.

The number of drains tested on complaint, during alterations, or in the course of investigation of nuisances was 50, all of which were defective.

An examination is made of the drains and sanitary fittings at each house visited when making enquiries with regard to infectious diseases.

(ii) SCHOOLS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

In accordance with arrangement the drains and sanitary fittings at the Schools and Boarding Houses under the control of the Harpur Trust are tested and reported upon periodically upon payment of a fee. The drains of 47 such premises were dealt with during the year, and defects discovered in 8 instances.

A similar arrangement is in operation in connection with certain private schools and boarding houses in the Borough, the drains at 9 of these premises were also tested and reported upon, of which 3 were defective.

Inspection was also carried out of 5 premises used as "preparatory schools," and in one instance there was no separate sanitary arrangements provided for the use of each sex; and of the remaining three premises the type of sanitary conveniences were considered obsolete.

Additional sanitary accommodation was provided at one school, and at the remaining premises pedestal W.C. pans were fixed.

The supervision of the drainage and sanitary arrangements at the elementary schools is under the control of the Borough Engineer.

(iii) OTHER PREMISES.

Drainage work has also been undertaken in 35 instances arising out of inspections made under the Factories Act, 1937, and the Shops Act, 1934, also with regard to offices under the Public Health Act, 1936.

(b) Repairs.

(i) PRIVATE HOUSES.

The drains at 58 premises were made sound, 50 necessitating minor repairs, whilst total reconstruction was carried out in 8 instances.

(ii) SCHOOLS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

The minor defects to the drains at these premises were made sound, repairs being effected in 11 instances.

(iii) OTHER PREMISES.

The work of repairs, alteration or reconstruction of drains at these classes of premises has been carried out in 35 instances.

(c) Drainage Work in the Added Areas.

The work of provision of suitable drainage for slop-water, closet conversion and dispensing of cesspools is completed.

This work has been carried out in conjunction with the officers of the Borough Surveyor's Department.

(d) Remarks.

An appreciable amount of time was devoted to works of drainage in connection with premises in the added areas.

A total of 1,873 visits of inspection for purposes of supervising drain repairs or reconstruction were made, and a total of 314 re-tests carried out in order to ensure satisfactory workmanship.

A sum of £57 0s. 0d. was received in respect of fees for reporting and testing upon the drains of houses, schools and school boarding houses, and was duly paid into the Borough Fund.

7.—Refuse (Storage, Collection and Disposal).

(a) Storage—House and Trade Refuse.

The provision of a regulation type galvanised sanitary dustbin for the storage of household refuse is required by Statute, and by arrangement with the Borough Engineer, who is responsible for refuse

collection, information is forthcoming with regard to absence of bins or defective bins; also attention to this requirement is given in the course of inspections under the Housing Acts. During the year 205 bins were provided in consequence of action taken by this Department.

The Authority have approved the following specification for a Regulation type dustbin :—

“Capacity 3 cu. ft. minimum and $3\frac{1}{2}$ cu. ft. maximum, 22 Gauge, galvanised iron with 2 metal handles and tight-fitting cover.”

The Authority take steps to secure that there are suitable and adequate means of storage of refuse in connection with trade premises.

(b) Collection.

The arrangements for the routine collection of refuse are under the control of the Borough Engineer.

In addition a number of tradespeople deliver their trade refuse direct to the Refuse Destructor.

(c) Disposal

All household refuse and the bulk of trade refuse is disposed of by incineration at the Refuse Destructor Works.

The Tip known as “Cox’s Pits” is now leased to a carting contractor, and the refuse dumped is of a non-combustible nature consisting mainly of builders’ refuse. No nuisance was found to exist in course of many visitations to this Tip.

8.—Stables and Other Premises where Animals are kept.

There have been no complaints with regard to this class of premises. Visits of inspection have been made, and occasionally it was necessary to call the attention of occupiers to the requirements with regard to the regular periodic removal of manure.

Improvements were effected with regard to two manure pits, and at one small farmstead the piggeries were reconstructed and suitable means of drainage provided.

Complaint was received in connection with keeping poultry in the vicinity of houses, but on investigation no sanitary nuisance was deemed to exist.

The number of stables steadily decreases, horses being replaced by mechanical transport; and pig-keeping is on the decline in consequence of pigsties being dispensed with on certain allotments due to pending building developments.

9.—Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Occasional complaints have been received with regard to rat nuisance, which were immediately investigated and action taken to suppress the nuisance.

The use of "poison baits" affords a ready means of combating the rat menace, and this work is carried out under the supervision of an Inspector.

It was found on investigating complaints that the presence of rats in the vicinity of houses was in some cases due to defective drains, and a marked improvement was effected when the drains were repaired.

The food premises in the centre of the town are naturally subject to infestation, but the occupiers as a matter of importance in their own interest take action tending to decrease the infestation, and the method chiefly adopted is the keeping of cats on the premises, and during the year no complaint was received from any of this class of premises.

The question of rat repression in connection with sewers is a matter dealt with by the Borough Surveyor's Department.

The rat problem is one requiring continuous effort, which is the procedure adopted by this Department in preference to a spasmodic effort for one week in the year.

The County Rat Officer has maintained contact with this Authority, requesting to be informed immediately of any serious infestation; and no occasion has arisen to report any matter to him.

10.—Rivers and Streams.

With regard to the part of the River Ouse which passes through the Borough, observation has been made for purposes of detecting any pollution, and no complaint was received by this Department.

The various watercourses in the Borough have also been kept under observation, and there is a marked improvement in those ditches situated on the Goldington and Kimbolton Road districts since these areas have been sewered and cesspools dispensed with.

The watercourse from London Road to Cardington Road, which became polluted towards the end of the previous summer, was kept under observation. It was noted in the spring of the year, following a spell of dry weather, that there was a recurrence of evidence of pollution. A thorough examination was made of the watercourse, and samples procured to check up possible source of pollution. The report upon the series of samples taken seemed to indicate that the renewed evidence of pollution might be attributed to the original pollution in November of the previous year. The watercourse was

cleansed and flushed by the Borough Surveyor's Department, which effected marked improvement in the state of the ditch, and from further periodic observations the nuisance appears to have been abated.

11.—Shops Act, 1934, Section 10. Health and Comfort of Shop Workers.

During the course of the year a total of 301 visits to shop premises were made for purpose of inspection under the above-named section.

All shops are provided with sufficient and suitable sanitary accommodation and washing facilities apart from four "lock-up" shops, in respect of which "exemption orders" are in operation. The conditions relating to lighting and ventilation were found to be satisfactory, also where meals are taken on the premises adequate provision is made.

The majority of shopkeepers make provision for the maintenance of a reasonable temperature in the shops, the exception to this being in respect of some of the various classes of food shops, including the "open-fronted" type. Attention has been given to this complex matter of maintaining a suitable temperature in such circumstances. A series of actual temperatures obtaining in the shops is being taken for the purpose of obtaining data prior to deciding a standard, such as would meet the requirements of the Statute, which it would be reasonable to call upon shopkeepers to adhere to.

During the year 35 new businesses were established, plans for which were submitted to this Department for observations as to requirements under the Shops Act.

In all there is a total of 1,055 shops in the Borough.

12.—Public Health Act, 1936, Section 154. Dealing in Rags.

Contravention in two instances in the vicinity of schools were detected during the year, with regard to the exchange of "Gold Fish" for rags and clothing to persons under the age of 14 years.

Precise particulars were taken at the time of the alleged offences, and the addresses of the defendants given as Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Proceedings were authorised to be taken, but it was found that the addresses given at the time of the offences were found by the Police Authorities in Birmingham to be fictitious, and owing to the difficulty in tracing and identifying the defendants the issue of a Summons was not proceeded with.

Since the above two instances, which occurred in June, there have been no other offences noted.

II. Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws and Regulations.

1.—Houses Let in Lodgings.

The undermentioned table shows the number of houses used for this purpose as compared with the previous year.

On Register at end of 1937	...	...	...	101
Added to Register during 1938	...	...	...	4
				—
				105
Removed from Register during 1938	...	...	...	12
				—
				93
				—

The following table shows the nature and number of lettings at the 93 premises, together with the number of occupants and rooms occupied at the end of 1938.

Class of Letting.	Let-tings	Members of Family.				Lodgers.		Rooms Occupied		Com-bined Rooms
		Adults & Children over 10.		Children under 10				Living Rooms	Sleep-ing Rooms	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Families	235	267	289	51	49	27	14	292	345	38
Single Unrelated Persons ...	53	27	29	—	—	—	—	34	31	28
Totals 1938 ...	288	294	318	51	49	27	14	326	376	66
Totals 1937 ...	305	315	328	58	55	26	13	315	393	86

The continued decrease in the number of this class of dwelling is a welcome feature, as this type of housing accommodation is not considered ideal, particularly where there are young children; and in co-operation with the Housing Department action is taken wherever possible to secure more suitable housing accommodation for these classes of persons.

It may be noted that there is a decrease in the number of children residing in this class of dwelling.

There is a continued change of occupants at some of these premises which require constant repeat visits of inspection in order to ensure that cases of overcrowding in the various lettings may not accrue, also to ascertain that the requirements of the Byelaws are adhered to.

In all a total of 154 visits were made during the year, and the general condition of these premises was found to be satisfactory.

2.—Common Lodging Houses.

There are 4 Registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

The following table shows the accommodation available, together with the number of lodgers admitted during 1937 and 1938.

Situation.	No. of Rooms.	No. of Beds.	Lodgers Admitted	
			1938.	1937.
8a, Tavistock Place	6	40	9354	8658
4, Allhallows Lane	4	19	2933	5142
*18, Allhallows Lane	7	21	—	1736
22, Allhallows Lane	5	28	2960	5711
104, Greyfriars Walk	5	14	4424	5019
	—	—	—	—
Totals	27	122	19671	26266
	—	—	—	—

* Closed August, 1937.

Male lodgers only are accommodated at these premises.

From the weekly returns furnished by the keepers a large decrease is noted in the number of persons utilising this type of accommodation, which is due to "Casual Labourers" having left the district and increased use being made of the Casual Wards at the Poor Law Institution.

A total of 22 visits of inspection were made during the year, and the premises were found to be maintained in a cleanly state, and the requirements of the Byelaws duly observed.

No notification of any infectious disease was received in connection with inmates of this class of premises during the year.

3.—Moveable Dwellings.

(Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.)

(a) Fairs.

Statute fairs are held in the Cattle Market in April and October each year, when an inspection of the showmen's vans is made.

The vans were found to be maintained in a cleanly condition, and no illness was reported or discovered amongst the occupants.

Separate sanitary accommodation is provided for the use of the van dwellers.

On occasions fairs are held in a field in London Road (known as Willmer's Field), and conditions at this site were found to be satisfactory.

(b) Other Van Dwellers.

Under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the Authority granted licences in respect of the 6 Caravans situated in the Clarence Yard, St. John's Street, which are occupied by "Showmen" who station their vans on the above site during the winter months.

There are 5 other vans, of which 4 are in Newnham Avenue and 1 in Caves Lane, Goldington Road, used occasionally by agricultural workers, in respect of which licences were not granted.

Sufficient sanitary accommodation and water supply are available to the above sites.

There are also some 9 huts situated on the river bank at Cardington intermittently occupied during the summer months.

A total of 128 visits were made in connection with this class of dwelling during the year, and the conditions found to be generally satisfactory.

During the year Caravans were found to be stationed in a field on the Cardington Road, and neither the site nor the van-dwellers were licensed. The occupier of the field was called upon to take the necessary steps to evict the van-dwellers, and subsequently they left the district.

4.—Public Houses.

A complete survey of the sanitary arrangements in connection with the 99 Licensed Premises was carried out at the end of 1937.

During the year under review additional W.C.'s were provided at 19 public houses, thereby securing at fully licensed premises sufficient and suitable sanitary accommodation, separate for the sexes, for the use of customers, in addition to suitable accommodation for the use of the occupier and his family.

Urinal accommodation is provided at all licensed premises, and in 60 instances the urinal arrangements have been reconstructed with the provision of sparge pipes and automatic flushing tanks.

In connection with sewer extension in added areas, cesspools at two licensed premises were dispensed with, being replaced by drains with connection to sewer; while at two other premises drainage was carried out and pail closets replaced by water closets.

There are 3 other licensed premises at which there are pail closets, two of which are remotely situated with regard to sewer accommodation, while the third is at present under consideration with a view to being rebuilt.

Provision is now made in the Bars of all licensed premises, except the three premises in the previous paragraph, for the washing of glasses and other receptacles, and during the year 28 stainless steel sinks were installed with the provision of Town water supply. Trapped waste pipes have been fixed to the sinks and wherever possible made to discharge over trapped gullies. These are, however, only a few cases where hot water is provided to these sinks.

5.—Refreshment Houses.

Inspections have been made of the sanitary accommodation in connection with these premises.

At 6 of these premises additional sanitary accommodation has been provided, being 4 additional urinals and 2 W.C.'s, thus securing separate accommodation for the sexes.

At 2 cafés, works of structural alteration and extensions, together with additional sanitary accommodation, are in progress.

6.—Public Conveniences.

The supervision of the public conveniences situated in various parts of the Borough, including those in the Parks and Recreation Grounds, are under the control of the Borough Surveyor's Department.

7.—Places of Public Entertainment.

The accommodation within the Borough for the purposes of Public Entertainment are as shown hereunder :—

Theatres	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Public Buildings		...	...	...	...	...	2
Clubs Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dance Halls	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Billiard Halls	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rooms let for Socials, etc.		...	...	...	...	...	8
							—
							32
							—

Each of the above premises was inspected during the year, and the conditions found were generally satisfactory, but improvements were effected at several of the premises, drainage reconstruction and

connection to public sewer with provision of additional W.C. accommodation in lieu of pail closets being carried out at one premises, while at the other premises improvements to the urinal accommodation were effected,

In respect of the Theatre, quarterly reports as to its sanitary condition were submitted to the Watch Committee, the premises generally being maintained in a satisfactory state as regards cleanliness of dressing rooms and auditorium, also the sanitary conveniences were maintained in a cleanly state and efficient working order.

8.—Sunday School Premises.

From time to time certain of the Sunday School premises are used for purposes of social functions.

There is a total of 40 such premises in the Borough, each of which were inspected during the year, and the sanitary arrangements were found to be satisfactory in 22 instances, while works of improvement as indicated hereunder have been carried out at the remaining 18 premises.

	No. of Premises.
Conversion of Pail Closets to Water Closets and drainage ...	2
Drainage reconstruction work	3
Additional W.C. accommodation	3
Reconstruction or provision of urinal accommodation ...	10
	—
	18
	—

9.—Offensive Trades.

There are two classes of Offensive Trades carried on in the Borough, namely Fish Frying and Rag and Bone Dealers, and the numbers of each class on the Register at the end of the year are shown below.

Seventeen Fish Frying Shops.

Two premises at which are housed four Fish Frying Vans which patrol the outlying districts.

Three premises used by Rag and Bone Dealers.

During the year an additional fish frying business was established in newly constructed premises fitted with modern equipment.

Nine fish frying premises are subject to annual renewal of the consent of the Authority, the remainder being old established businesses and therefore not subject to this condition.

Five new modern type ranges have been installed and all fish frying ranges in use in the Borough are now "Gas fired."

Extensive structural alterations were carried out at one fish frying premises.

The 17 fish and chip shops are fairly well distributed throughout the Borough, and all districts fairly well catered for with the exception of the Elstow Road and Goldington districts.

The business of fish frying has been well conducted at each of the above shops during the year, one complaint only was received in regard to alleged offensive odours and smoke in connection with premises at which 3 fish frying vans are stored. This matter was immediately investigated, and the proprietor gave an assurance that all possible steps would be taken to obviate any nuisance.

The 3 premises used for the trade of rag and bone dealing were kept under supervision, particularly in summer time when nuisance is likely to arise, as two of the premises are situated in the vicinity of dwelling houses.

No complaint was received with regard to these premises.

10.—Smoke Abatement.

There are 27 chimneys in connection with factory premises in the Borough which are in regular use, but no nuisance has been manifested from this source during the year. In consequence of action taken by this Department in previous years the Management of the firms concerned are fully aware of their obligations in this matter, and from general observation of the chimneys evidently take necessary precautions to obviate nuisance from undue emission of black smoke.

III. Rag Flock Act, 1911-1928.

This commodity is not manufactured within the Borough, but is used on occasions at some 8 premises.

The rag flock used is supplied with a guarantee as to cleanliness.

No samples of this commodity were procured.

IV. Factories Act, 1937.

1.—General Scope of Work.

This Act, which came into operation on July 1st, 1938, replaces the Act of 1901.

The terms “Workshop” and “Workplace,” also “Domestic Factories” and “Domestic Workshops” are abolished, there being only two classifications, namely “Factory with mechanical power” and “Factory without mechanical power.”

Factories with mechanical power are under the supervision of H.M. Inspector of Factories for all purposes except provision of sanitary accommodation and of means of fire escape, whereas factories without mechanical power are under the control of the Local Authority.

Following upon consultation with H.M. Inspector of Factories, a complete review of the Register of Factories has been made, having regard to the two classifications given above, the numbers of each class at the end of the year being shown hereunder:—

(a) Factories with mechanical power	...	227
(b) Factories without mechanical power	...	117
		<hr/>
Total	...	344
		<hr/>

The following tables show the number of inspections made and defects found, and result of action taken.

2.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	279	108	—
Factories without mechanical power	188	44	—
†Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering con- struction, but not including out- workers' premises)	5	—	—
Total	472	152	—

† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.

3.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prose- cutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S 1)... ..	14	8	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	1	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S 4) ...	1	1	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S 6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—				
Insufficient	4	3	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective... ..	12	6	—	—
Not separate for Sexes	2	1	—	—
Other offences	134	18	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Homework or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total	168	37	—	—

The 134 other defects mainly relate to means of indication and artificial lighting of the sanitary compartments, which are new requirements under the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938, also to the provision of thermometers in workrooms.

The defects found during inspections in 1937 which had not been remedied by the end of that year were completed early in 1938.

In addition 151 premises were also inspected in which work is carried on, but where apart from the occupier no person is employed.

With the exception of 7 premises in remote districts at which there are either pail closets or chemical closets, all factory premises in the Borough are provided with water closets.

A range of "trough" closets at one factory were dispensed with during the year, and now all W.C.'s in factories are of the pedestal type.

Twelve notifications were received during the year from H.M. Inspector of Factories as follows:—

(1) Want of Cleanliness	5
(2) Absence of sanitary accommodation	2
(3) Insufficient sanitary accommodation	1
(4) Other Offences (Thermometers and Permitted Numbers not affixed)	4
	—
	12
	—

The work required above has all been carried out with the exception of one premises with regard to "want of cleanliness," and an undertaking having been given that the premises would be demolished at an early date, the Authority decided to take no further action.

The notification with regard to "insufficient sanitary accommodation" was incorrect, separate accommodation having been in existence for some years at the premises stated.

4.—Homework.

In order to supervise premises where homework of certain specified classes is carried on, occupiers of factories and shops are required to submit lists of outworkers twice a year, February and August.

During the year 56 forms were sent to occupiers and duly returned, giving the names of 41 outworkers; notifications were also received from 3 other authorities in respect of 4 persons, making a total of 44 outworkers.

No cases of infectious disease occurred amongst these outworkers.

Forty-four visits of inspection were made to outworkers' premises and they were found to be kept in a satisfactory manner.

V. Disinfection and Disinfestation.

1.—Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

The disinfection of rooms, bedding and clothing in connection with infectious diseases is carried out immediately upon the removal of the patient to hospital, and in the case of a patient isolated at home immediately upon recovery, also in connection with cases of tuberculosis or cancer.

The following table shows the number of disinfections in connection with the various classes of diseases.

	Rooms.	Articles of bedding and clothing, &c.
Notifiable Infectious Diseases ...	93	8,610
Tuberculosis	24	2,125
Cancer and other Diseases ...	39	3,302
Totals	156	14,037

The disinfection of rooms and contents is by gaseous fumigation by means of formalin lamps, and where deemed essential, steam disinfection of bedding and clothing is also carried out at the disinfecting station.

All books from the Public Library and Private Libraries discovered in houses where infectious diseases occurred were collected and disinfected at the Public Health Department before being returned to the Libraries for re-issue. An arrangement is in operation whereby all the circulating libraries are notified of each house at which patients suffering from infectious disease are isolated at home, and any further issue of books is prohibited until a certificate of freedom from infection is obtained.

By an arrangement with one large circulating library in the town, all books exposed to infection are confiscated and destroyed.

During the year 46 books were disinfected.

A total of 311 visits were made by the Sanitary staff in connection with investigation of infectious disease and the work of disinfection.

All houses in which cases of infectious diseases occur are made the subject of inspection and attention is also given to ascertain the condition of the drains and sanitary fittings.

In all cases of infectious diseases, tuberculosis and cancer, no fee is charged in respect of the work of disinfection, but in the case of other illness, where disinfection is carried out on request, a small charge covering the cost of disinfectants, etc., is made for this service.

2.—Disinfestation.

(a) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The following table shows the numbers and classifications of houses at which action was taken with regard to bug infestation together with the number of rooms treated.

	No. of Houses.	No. of Rooms.	Bedding Destroyed.	Bedding Steam Treated.
Council Houses	29	100	2 Lots	6 Lots
Private Houses	44	197	2 Lots	*7 Lots
Houses Let in Lodgings	4	10	—	—
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	77	307	4 Lots	13 Lots
	—	—	—	—

* Treatment before removal to a Council House.

In most of these cases the houses were not seriously infested.

On receipt of a complaint or upon a case of infestation with bugs being discovered immediate action is taken.

The work is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department and no charge is made for this service.

The method employed for freeing infested houses is as follows :—

A detailed inspection of the infested premises is carried out and the degree of infestation determined. Extermination of vermin is by repeated applications of an effective insecticide. “Zaldicide” insecticide is generally used. Where infestation is pronounced, stripping of walls of paper and removal of skirting boards and other superficial timber is resorted to in order to secure more effective application of the insecticide, of which repeated applications are given until the premises are free of infestation.

The “Plumber’s Blow Lamp” is also used as a means of extermination.

Bedding is treated according to the degree of infestation. Badly infested bedding is destroyed by incineration, and the less infested bedding is subjected to steam disinfestation.

The measures taken to prevent reinfestation consist of appropriate advice to householders by the Housing Manager for Council Houses and Sanitary Inspectors for private houses, with instructions as to maintenance of cleanliness of the premises, and that immediate notice be given of any sign of re-infestation in order that early repeat treatment might be given.

For purpose of combating re-infestation, it is advised that rooms be cleansed and walls distempered, and not re-papered until one is assured that the work of eradication is completed.

The procedure as described above proves to be effectual in securing a reasonable degree of freedom from infestation, and Hydrogencyanide Gas was not used as it is considered to be too dangerous.

In order to ensure that the belongings of tenants who are to be admitted to Council Houses are in a cleanly condition, the Housing Manager makes visits of inspection to their homes. Any suspicious case is reported to the Public Health Department for action to be taken, and the increase in the number of premises treated results from this action.

(b) Other Vermin.

Occasional complaint has been received with regard to infestation by beetles, crickets and ants, and treatment by means of powder insecticide was found to be effective.

In 15 instances complaint was made and disinfestation was carried out. Six of these houses were on the Corporation Housing Estates.

Two cases of infestation of fleas were reported and the premises disinfested.

(c) Scabies.

During the year 9 cases of scabies were reported to the Department, the patients were treated at home under medical supervision and the bedding and clothing of the patients treated during the illness by steam disinfection.

